THE NEW
# INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • MAY 05, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

**SANSKRIT MOTHER OF NEARLY ALL INDIAN LANGUAGES: SHAH**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said there is no opposition to any language as no one can be distanced from their mother tongue and Sanskrit is the mother of nearly all Indian languages. Addressing the closing ceremony of 1008 Sanskrit Sambhashan Shivirs in New Delhi, Shah said as the mother of most Indian languages, Sanskrit's promotion is not just about its revival, but also about advancing the nation's overall progress.

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Indushree AIIMS, Mangalagiri
Ramesh AIIMS, Guwahati
Souharda AIIMS, Mangalagiri

Pampapati AIIMS, Jodhpur
Prajwal JIPMER, Pondicherry
Rohit R K JNMC, Aligarh
Samasth JIPMER, Pondicherry
Vikas JIPMER, Karaikal
Rohit R K JNMC, Aligarh
Kushal Gowda BMC, Bangalore
Vinod Ganagi BMC, Bangalore
Hrushikesh Narayan BMC, Bangalore
Akash D BMC, Bangalore
Likhith K BMC, Bangalore

Pavan BMC, Bangalore
Yashika BMC, Bangalore
Ujwal K BMC, Bangalore
Jithendra BMC, Bangalore
S Sahana BMC, Bangalore
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**ALMANAC TODAY**
• **Monday:** 05.05.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttarayana
• **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Vaishaka • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Ashtami 11.42 am
• **Nakshatra:** Ashlesha 5.53 pm • Moon in Simha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

**WEATHER** — MIN 20°C | MAX 34°C — **FORECAST** Broken clouds

Sunrise 05.57 am | Sunset 06.35 pm | Moonrise 12.58 pm | Moonset 01.09 am

# Experts lambast BBMP split plan, call for polls soon

## Stress on citizen-driven vision document for city

**AKNISREE KARTHIK**
@Bengaluru

AS the state government contemplates splitting the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into smaller corporations, citizen groups and urban experts have suggested that elections to the BBMP Council should be conducted first, followed by drafting a vision document by citizens outlining their aspirations for the city.

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot recently gave his assent to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, which allows BBMP to be split into a maximum of seven smaller corporations. Sources in the BBMP revealed that the Congress-led state government is inclined to split the BBMP into three corporations.

Citizen activist and Bengaluru Praja Vedike founder, N S Mukunda, said, "When H D Kumaraswamy was Chief Minister, he pushed for an elevated corridor. Now, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is aiming to bring a tunnel road to Bengaluru, despite public opposition. The government now wants to slice the city into three corporations. Why can't the people of Bengaluru decide what they want for their city, how it should be governed and how many corporations are needed to manage it?" He said half of the city's problems stem from projects imposed on it.

Criticising the current form of proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority, he said it does not decentralise powers. "Every government wants to retain control and is unwilling to devolve powers," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru / Bengaluru Town Hall, said, "Splitting Bengaluru into multiple corporations is a flawed idea by design. If we look at the Delhi experiment, it's bound to fail. If the goal was devolution and better administration, it could have been achieved through the BBMP Act, 2020, by devolving powers to BBMP zones, ward committees, and area sabhas, and by improving transparency through IT solutions. ."

"If the government were truly interested in devolution, it would not have delayed the elections. Irrespective of which party is in power, the government has consistently found excuses to postpone elections. This shows mala fide intent. It's clear that politicians are not interested in grassroots democracy. This entire exercise seems to be aimed at delaying or preventing it, thereby continuing state control over local bodies," Anirudhan said.

He further stated that the Act is poorly drafted and ill-conceived. One of the primary concerns is that it violates multiple provisions of the Indian Constitution by perpetuating state control over local bodies, rendering governance non-representative and undemocratic. Both Mukunda and Anirudhan said the Act should be challenged in court, and many residents and civic groups are preparing for legal action.

**EXAM HUSTLE**

A student removes earrings before entering a NEET exam centre in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

**EXPRESS READ**

### City to host 8th edition of Plastasia event

Bengaluru: The eighth edition of 'Plastasia,' one of the largest exhibitions for the plastics industry, will be held in Bengaluru from May 9 to 12, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). Supported by the Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, the four-day event will feature a comprehensive display of solutions across the plastics value chain with a focus on showcasing state-of-the-art machinery, sustainable technologies, and advanced manufacturing solutions. The event aims to highlight India's growing capabilities in green technology and circular economy- a system where waste is minimised and materials are reused efficiently. Attendees can explore the latest in injection moulding, extrusion, thermoforming, and recycling technologies. This year, the event will host more than 150 live demonstrations. The focus will be heavily on advanced plastic manufacturing machinery, new-age raw materials including bioplastics, 3D printing materials, and eco-friendly additives that are set to change the way plastics are being made and used. The managing director of Triune Exhibitors Private Limited, which is organizing the event, highlighted that the goal is to push the industry towards a more sustainable and competitive future. The event is expected to serve as an ideal platform for manufacturers, exporters and industry professionals to learn about global market trends and innovations, find new business opportunities, and understand emerging sustainability practices.

# Thieves steal taps & cylinders from college, 2nd incident in 6 months

**PRAVEEN KUMAR** @ Bengaluru

TAKING advantage of a night-beat security guard's sound sleep, unidentified miscreants have broken into the campus of Home Science College on Palace Road next to Freedom Park and have escaped with low-priced items such as taps and two cylinders, leaving behind all the costly ones. The college's principal has filed a police complaint in this regard at Upparpet police station. A case of theft (BNS 305) has been registered.

This is the second theft that has been reported on the campus in the last six months. The campus requires nearly 15 CCTV cameras and the proposal is still on paper.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Dr Wajeeha Sulthana, Principal of Home Science College, said that anybody can have easy access inside the campus either from the front gate or from the compound wall adjacent to Freedom Park or by scaling the compound wall from behind. "The incident happened on April 27 in the night. The incident came to light when Thippeswamy, the day security guard, came to work and then woke up the night-beat guard who was sleeping. Surprisingly the thieves have stolen just taps and two cylinders. There were costly printers, computers and other valuables which they had not touched. A similar theft happened last December and during that time the accused had stolen only water taps from the Chemistry lab and the food and nutrition lab. The steel taps were replaced with plastic taps and even these taps have been stolen now. After the theft in the first week of December, a police complaint was filed. A request has been made for CCTVs which is under proposal," the principal added.

The accused have entered the college by cutting the locks of the board room. They have then roamed inside the college premises and have even ransacked. The taps were stolen from room number 15 and 16 of the Chemistry lab.

"Manoj, the guard who was on night duty is being questioned. Involvement of rag pickers is being suspected. Once a gang of rag pickers had entered the campus by covering their faces and are said to have escaped after seeing the guards. The previous theft case is being probed. The accused have used an axle blade to cut open the door locks. Using the same blades, they cut the five water taps from the pipes. They have also stolen dead batteries. They have dragged the batteries from the laboratories and the acid has spilled on the floor. The accused must be aware of the campus," said an officer.

# Pvt firm employee arrested for molesting woman at Eco World

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@ Bengaluru

A 32-year-old private company employee was arrested by Marathahalli police for allegedly molesting a woman twice outside the main gate of Eco World tech park in Devarabeesanahalli.

The accused was identified as **Srikanth**, a resident of Devarabeesanahalli who holds an MBA degree and works at a private firm in the city.

The incident was reported on April 30, when a 26-year-old woman, a resident of Bhoganahalli, was walking near the main gate of the tech park. Srikanth, who was riding a two-wheeler, came from behind and hit the complainant's back before speeding away. Minutes later, he returned after taking a U-turn and repeated the act, this time more aggressively. He then stood at a distance and watched her, the woman alleged in her complaint. Despite being in a high-security area with CCTV surveillance and security guards stationed every few metres, no passersby came forward to help, the woman mentioned in her complaint.

"Investigation is going on to determine whether he is a habitual offender," a senior police officer from Whitefield division said. The Marathahalli police, which is still probing the case, had formed special teams to arrest the accused.

**MAN FINED FOR SPITTING PAN MASALA IN METRO STATION**

BMRCL penalised a commuter for spitting pan masala inside Doddakallasandra Metro Station on Kanakapura Road. The incident occurred at 6.30 pm on May 2, near the lift on Platform 1 of Doddakallasandra Green Line Metro Station. Following the viral video by a Metro commuter confronting another for consuming chewable tobacco inside a train near Sampige Road Station, BMRCL said on April 23 that it would intensify patrolling during non-peak hours and take strict action against passengers found consuming chewable tobacco products. "Spitting and littering degrade the environment and pose health risks to fellow commuters. Strict action will be taken against anyone who violates the cleanliness of Metro premises," BMRCL stated on Sunday. BMRCL also encouraged passengers to cooperate.

# 75-yr-old woman found dead at house, cops suspect suicide

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@Bengaluru

A 75-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances outside her three-storey house in 7th Sector HSR Layout early Sunday morning. The deceased, identified as Vijaylakshmi, is believed to have died between 3.30 am and 4 am, according to the police.

The incident came to light after her daughter, Pramila, who lives in KR Puram, filed a complaint with the police. Pramila was not at home when the incident occurred and was informed about it by other family members.

While initial investigation suggests it may be a case of suicide, police have not ruled out the possibility of an accidental fall. "On the face of it, Vijaylakshmi appeared to be mentally stable and was not reported to be depressed by family members. We are checking whether any health issues related to age may have caused her to accidentally slip from the third floor or if she took the extreme step," a senior officer said.

A police officer told *TNIE* that Vijaylakshmi had lost her husband three years ago as well as both her sons a little over a year ago. She was living in the three-storey house with her two daughters-in-law and two grandsons.

HSR Layout police registered a case.

# BDA under fire for selling land under litigation

**RISHITA KHANNA** @Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of Banashankari 6th Stage have been barred from constructing houses on their properties after multiple blocks in the layout came under litigation, affecting over 300 plots.

The layout, formed 22 years ago by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), includes long-time allottees from 2002, houses constructed over nine years ago, and site buyers from recent BDA auctions between 2021 and 2024. Though the area is fully developed and has a resident welfare association in place, the land has now been declared to belong to the original landlords.

Residents have alleged that the BDA have failed to defend its land acquisition in court and is continuing to auction sites that are under litigation, leaving many buyers in limbo and raising serious concerns about the agency's functioning. Several affected residents, many of whom were unaware that their plots were under legal dispute, are now demanding urgent intervention.

"We are raising this issue anonymously because the landowners have political backing. But hundreds of us are suffering. This is a public failure. Why should we trust BDA after this?" they said.

A property owner from the 3rd Block said their family had bought the site through a BDA auction in 2021, registered it in 2022, and began construction only in February 2025. "We had already laid the foundation when local landlords informed us that a High Court order had quashed BDA's acquisition in January this year," the resident said.

According to residents, the court ruling denotified over 16 acres of land across 2nd Block, 3rd Block, and 4H Block in Banashankari 6th Stage, following petitions filed by the original landowners. They claimed that BDA had failed to develop the layout and that they continued using the land for agricultural purposes. The court ruled in their favour, impacting more than 250 to 300 site owners. "Many of us are now left helpless. We can't build our homes, and we can't sell either," said another resident. "From January 27 to April, there was no response or action. We visited the BDA office every week, met the commissioner, and urged them to file an appeal. Finally, last week, their lawyer submitted the appeal, but it still hasn't been admitted because he failed to attach the necessary documents," a resident told *TNIE*.

The residents further alleged that the BDA did not present evidence in court to show that the layout was developed. "There are tarred roads, Cauvery water connections, streetlights, garbage collection, and fully occupied houses. Yet, none of these documents were submitted in court. That's why this happened, they said.

The residents claimed that the BDA is still auctioning new sites, as if nothing had happened.

## Daily Starscope

**PETER VIDAL**

**05th May: We're still in a significant Moon phase. Some people I know regard this as their favourite moment in the month, ideal for making a fresh start in their jobs and relationships. Actually, the most auspicious moment for setting off on a new enterprise arrives tomorrow, perhaps - but definitely by Thursday.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The Moon has now spread its emotional sway over all your relationships. The basic message is that there is no time for malingerers, time-wasters and others who imagine they can leech off your goodwill for ever. If you're going to grant someone else a favour, make sure that they deserve it.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There does seem to be some cause for discretion today, although exactly why, is not clear. If, on the other hand, you do decide to come clean, all the indications are that you'll receive a fair hearing. That, at least, has to be some consolation!

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
If you have been a mite frustrated or muddled as a result of partners' failure to see what was staring them in the face, you may hope that events will now take a turn for the better. Within a few days, someone will claim that they knew what you were talking about all along!

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon's influence on the uppermost reaches of your solar chart should remind you that you were born under one of the so-called 'cardinal' signs, and that, as this suggests, you were born to lead, not to follow. But, if you want other people to do what they're told, you'd better be pleasant to them.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Although you are likely to receive some help and assistance today, when other people start lending a hand they may begin to take over. This is why you should first always double-check their apparently good advice. The last thing you want to do is move over while they make a mess of things!

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You need to know where to draw the line. Only if you take a much firmer stand now will other people respect you. As Mars approaches another relationship with your chart, partners will increasingly be demanding that you do things their way - and the pressure may be hard to resist.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The key to contentment lies in your ability to get on with people with whom you are increasingly being forced into very close contact. This advice, by the way, can include people you work with as much as people you live with. Don't wait until they see eye-to-eye with you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Over the next two weeks you will show an increasing tendency to look on the bright side of life and, if you continue to believe that others are certain to help you on your way, they probably will do just that! Some prophecies are self-fulfilling, which is why optimism breeds success.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mercury and Mars' intelligent alignments indicate that, where you have gone ahead without consent, you must now reach a retrospective agreement. It is no use just pretending that other people have no right to be consulted. You've got to keep them in the picture.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
If there's one thing that's certain, it's that nothing is certain! The Sun is but a short distance away from its passage into a whole new sector of your chart. This is why you may consider the virtues of keeping certain plans to yourself, perhaps even for another few months.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Superficially it looks like decision time, but no matter how hard others try to persuade you to make up your mind, it seems unlikely that any firm choices will be taken. Neither should they be. There is still more information to come along, so be patient.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
If you've been flogging a dead horse at work, you must now give it a rest. Otherwise it may come as a greater shock when you realise you've been heading very fast down the nearest cul-de-sac! Still, you can console yourself with the knowledge that no experience is wasted, and that you can learn valuable lessons from your mistakes!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

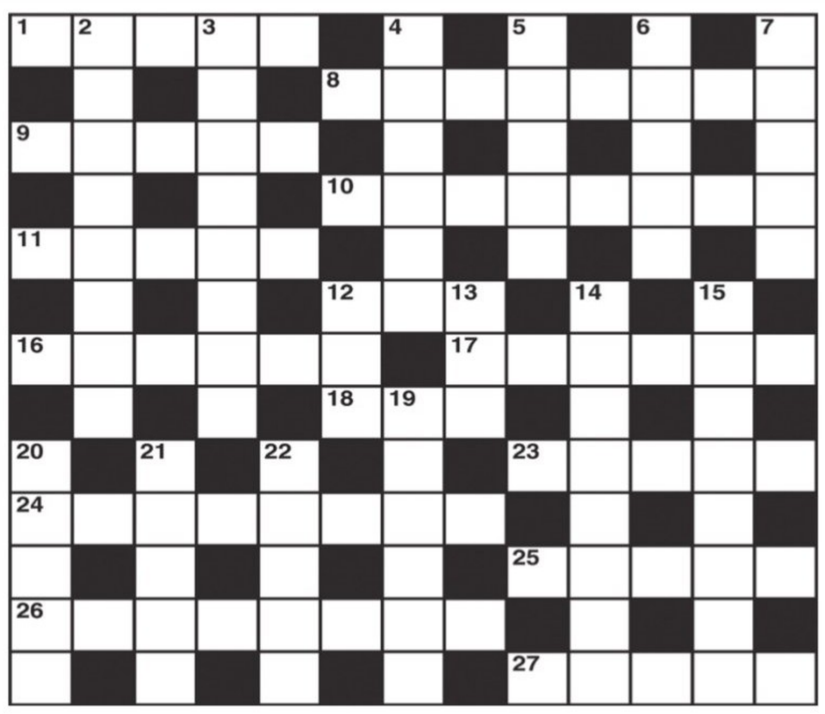
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | 5 | | | 7 | | 8 |
| | | 5 | | | 1 | 4 | | 6 |
| | | | | 2 | | | 5 | |
| | | | 2 | 8 | | | | |
| 6 | | 8 | | | | 3 | | 7 |
| | | | | 3 | 9 | | | |
| | 4 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 8 | | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | | |
| 7 | | 1 | | | 6 | | 8 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 |

**SUDOKU HARD**

**TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE**

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



**CROSS WORD**

**ACROSS**
1 They help you reach new heights (5)
8 Swing rear of plane to fly (4,4)
9 Cast votes for a cooker (5)
10 Impressed by Eastern flight (8)
11 Prize for a hospital room (5)
12 Sign for some battle orders (3)
16 Remain perfectly still and go cold all over (6)
17 Tree that is adored all over the place (6)
18 Girl returns a greeting (3)
23 Doctor gets notes about implant (5)
24 Gave lads the means to be saved from rain (8)
25 A lengthy yarn (5)
26 Behold an object of hatred (8)
27 A noted roue has to slow down (5)

**DOWN**
2 Drawn out in the wrong order - that's awkward (8)
3 Sci-fi writer about whom a divinity gave a ruling (8)
4 A loose member of the family (6)
5 It's said proverbially to make men go wild (5)
6 Daily thesis (5)
7 Spirits obtainable in a Channel vessel (5)
12 The French go over a meadow (3)
13 Love of French poetry (3)
14 He turns out amusing little articles (8)
15 Independent young beef producer (8)
19 Where a girl turns up after six (6)
20 New lamps put into service (5)
21 Stay on top? (5)
22 A secret store; explicitly money (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Resistance, 6 Edam, 10 Carat, 11 Aspersion, 12 In no time, 13 Eagle, 15 Profuse, 17 Scalene, 19 Session, 21 Alluded, 22 Rogue, 24 Motorist, 27 Parasites, 28 Aisle, 29 Eros, 30 Agreements.

**Down:** 1 Rock, 2 Strenuous, 3 Set-to, 4 At a time, 5 Coppers, 7 Doing, 8 Monteverdi, 9 Free fall, 14 Apostrophe, 16 Universe, 18 Eldest son, 20 Name tag, 21 Artiste, 23 Garbo, 25 Realm, 26 Hems.

**JUMBLE** — UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

SFYUS

RNGTA

NYISNK

ETRRIW

My parents can't wait to travel to Hawaii.
Alaska has wilderness as far as the eye can see!
That's where I want to go!
IN 1960, THE U.S. FLAG WAS CHANGED BECAUSE ALASKA AND HAWAII WERE ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WRING SLIMY FUTILE TOASTY
Answer: For the eagle that had another birthday coming up, it seemed like — TIME WAS FLYING

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**BILLIONAIRE WARREN BUFFETT TO BOW OUT BY END OF THE YEAR**

**Decision brings curtains down on a six-decade run heading Berkshire Hathaway that made Buffett the world's most influential investor**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN GREG ABEL IS SUCCESSOR**

Buffett had such a devoted following among investors that markets would move when his investments were disclosed. Buffett said he will recommend to Berkshire Hathaway's board that Vice Chairman Greg Abel should replace him. Abel has been Buffett's designated successor for years, and already manages Berkshire's non-insurance businesses

**MINCES NO WORDS ON DOLLAR'S FUTURE**

- Buffett said the market turmoil that generated headlines after US President Donald Trump's tariff announcement last month 'is really nothing' to be worried about
- On the fate of the US dollar, Buffett said, "We would not really invest in a currency that is going to 'hell'

**$1.18 trillion**

**IS THE ESTIMATED SIZE OF THE BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY EMPIRE**

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

# Befitting reply to those who hurt India: Rajnath

## Air Chief Marshal meets Modi amid rising cross-border tensions

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR, MAYANK SINGH & FAYAZ WANI
@ New Delhi/Srinagar

AMID the rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, according to sources. There was no official statement on the meeting, but the two were understood to have discussed the security situation.

The Air Chief Marshal's one-on-one-meeting with the prime minister came a day after Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi met Modi.

Later in the day, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh said he will see to it that the armed forces give a "befitting reply" to India's enemies. Issuing a stern warning to Pakistan—without directly naming the country—Singh said: "As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to work with my soldiers and ensure the protection of the country's borders. And it is my responsibility to give a befitting reply, by working with the armed forces, to those who cast an evil eye on our country." Singh's strong words came during his speech at the Sanatan Sanskriti Jagran Mahotsav event in Delhi.

**Iran's foreign minister to visit Pak, India**

After Tehran said it would use its ties with India and Pakistan to ease tensions, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is set to visit Pakistan on Monday, and India after that. Tehran said the visit is "part of regular consultations with neighbouring countries"

**X handles of Bilawal, Imran blocked**

The social media accounts of Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former Pak PM Imran Khan will not be available in India as the government on Sunday withheld their X handles. The action is part of the digital crackdown on Pak handles

TERROR in KASHMIR

Meanwhile, officials said Pakistan continued to breach the ceasefire agreement for the 10th continuous night.

"During the night of May 3 and 4, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor in J&K," an army official said, adding that Indian forces responded promptly and proportionately.

Although there have been no casualties or injuries in the cross-border firing, it has led to escalation of tension at the frontiers, causing panic among border residents.

Also, while heavy weaponry such as mortars and artillery has not yet been used, the continuous use of small arms including light machine guns by both sides has raised concerns that the situation may escalate into intense clashes.

Pakistan's continuous ceasefire violations and targeting of army posts along the Line of Control in multiple sectors from Kashmir to Jammu region has put the border ceasefire pact in threat and danger.

Fearing further escalation of the situation, the border residents in Jammu and Kashmir are cleaning and fortifying their underground bunkers and stock-piling essentials to prepare for any eventuality. Farmers are also hurriedly completing the harvesting of crops in the border areas.

# Need partners, not preachers: EAM tells EU

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Europe to show greater sensitivity and mutuality of interest if it wants deeper ties with India, saying New Delhi is looking for "partners, not preachers."

Speaking at the 'Arctic Circle India Forum' during an interactive session on Sunday, Jaishankar highlighted India's long-standing advocacy of 'Russia realism' and pointed to the 'important fit' and 'complementarity' between the two countries, describing Russia as a resource provider and India as a resource consumer.

He also criticised Western efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict without involving Moscow, terming them a challenge to the basics of realism.

"Just like I am an advocate of Russia realism, I am also an advocate of America realism," he said.

"I think the best way to engage today's America is also through finding mutuality of interests rather than putting ideological differences upfront and then allowing it to cloud the possibilities of working together," he added.

Responding to a question on India's expectations from Europe, he said Europe must move beyond preaching and instead act on the basis of shared interests.

"When we look out at the world, we look for partners; we do not look for preachers, particularly preachers who do not practise at home and preach abroad," he said.

Jaishankar has repeatedly called out what he sees as Western duplicity in global affairs, especially Europe's selective application of international principles. He has long argued that for Europe to be taken seriously, it must show consistency in upholding values such as territorial integrity, rather than bending rules to suit its own interests. Pointing to what he terms a lopsided worldview, Jaishankar in the past had said that the Europe must move beyond the belief that its problems are global concerns, while the rest of the world's issues are not its responsibility.

"Some of Europe is still struggling with that problem. Some of it has changed," he noted, suggesting that Europe has entered "a certain zone of reality check."

NEET candidate Sripad Patil wears a new janivara amid chanting of mantras by priests on the road in front of St Mary's School in Kalaburagi on Sunday | EXPRESS

# NEET candidate asked to remove janivara in K'buragi

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

A candidate was allegedly asked to remove his janivara (the sacred thread worn largely by Brahmins) before writing the afternoon session of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) at St Mary's exam centre here on Sunday. The incident, coming on the back of similar faux pas during the Common Entrance Test just a few days ago, triggered a large-scale protest on the main road in front of the college.

Activists from both sub-sects of Brahmins, Smarta and Vaishnava, also Lingayats and Dalits joined the protest.

Sudhir Patil, father of the candidate Sripad Patil, said his son came out of the exam centre with tears in his eyes and said officials were insisting on him removing the janivara before allowing him into the exam hall. On Sudhir's advice, Sripad removed the janivara and went to write the test.

Sripad is from Bet Balkunda village of Basavakalyan taluk (Bidar district) and came to Kalaburagi to write NEET.

The Sanatana Yuva Shakti Trust, Akhila Bharat Madhwa Maha Parishat and ABVP supported the protest.

CONTINUED ON P5

# Cong asks state units to up ante on caste census

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

STEPPING up pressure on the Union government to conduct the caste census as announced by the Union cabinet recently, the Congress asked its state units on Sunday to highlight the BJP's resistance to 'caste enumeration' in the past and Rahul Gandhi's consistent efforts in pushing for it.

In a circular, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal directed all state units to raise demands made in the CWC meeting last week, including carrying out the caste census without delay and implementation of Article 15(5), during the upcoming 'Samvidhan Bachao Rallies' scheduled to be held across all states and districts.

Venugopal also urged state units to convey the party's historical and ongoing commitments at the grassroots level, including the leadership role played by Rahul Gandhi.

"In particular, the demand for the immediate implementation of Article 15(5) should be prominently highlighted," he said. The article pertains to reservations for SCs, STs, and OBCs in private educational institutions. The party directed all PCCs that during the assembly-level 'Save Constitution' rallies and house-to-house campaigns scheduled till May 30, the state units must organise 'chaupal meetings' with active participation from social activists, civil society activists, teachers, lawyers, shopkeepers, self-help groups members, and Bahujan communities.

The circular called upon the state units to "expose the BJP's anti-Bahujan ideology, its resistance to caste enumeration, and its efforts to suppress social justice". It urged leaders to mobilise broad-based public support for the caste census and full implementation of Article 15(5).

# Iran-backed Houthis attack Israel's main airport with hypersonic missile

AGENCIES @ Tel Aviv / New Delhi

A missile launched by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen briefly halted flights and commuter traffic at Israel's main international airport on Sunday.

The Houthis have been striking Israel throughout the war in Gaza in solidarity with Palestinians. The attack on Ben-Gurion International Airport came hours before Israeli Cabinet ministers were set to vote on whether to intensify military operations in the Gaza Strip. The armed wing of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas praised the missile attack.

Houthi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree said in a video statement that the group fired a hypersonic ballistic missile at the airport.

The Israeli military confirmed that the attack, which gouged a large crater in the perimeter of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, was launched from Yemen and had struck despite "several attempts... to intercept the missile". A photographer said the missile hit near the parking lots of Terminal 3, the airport's largest. The crater was just hundreds of metres from the tarmac.

Israeli security forces inspect the site where the projectile was fired by Yemen's Houthis on Sunday, leading to suspension of flight services | AP

This was the first time a missile struck the airport since the war began. Passengers were heard yelling and scrambling for cover in footage shared by Israeli media. Air raid sirens were sounded in multiple parts of Israel.

In response, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz vowed retribution: "Whoever harms us, we will harm them sevenfold." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a multi-phased response to Yemen's Houthis. "It's not bang, bang and we're done, but there will be bangs," he said.

Scores of flights operating from the Ben-Gurion international airport to different countries were cancelled. Germany's Lufthansa airline and British Airways suspended flights to Tel Aviv till May 7, while Air India announced a temporary termination of all its operations to and from Tel Aviv till May 6 after the diversion of its New Delhi to Tel Aviv flight, carrying nearly 200 passengers, to Abu Dhabi due to the attack.

P9

**VHP ACTIVIST'S MURDER**

# Didn't visit Suhas' parents as he was involved in 5 cases: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara here on Sunday clarified that he did not visit the parents of Suhas Shetty, who was murdered at Bajpe in Mangaluru recently, as several heinous cases had been filed against the latter.

"There are five cases against Suhas. That is why none of the elected representatives visited his house. But we are on the job of delivering justice to his family members as eight accused have already been arrested," he told reporters, replying to the criticism that he did not console Suhas' parents during his visit to Mangaluru recently.

He categorically denied Congress instructing its leaders not to visit Suhas' family as a video on it has gone viral. "This is a case of murder. The government will do justice to Suhas Shetty's family," he said.

On Suhas' parents suspecting whether the arrested were genuinely involved in the murder, Parameshwara hit back, saying, "Is it possible to call anyone an accused?"

On the speculation that it was a revenge killing for the murder of Mohammed Fazil in 2022, in which Suhas was the main accused, as Fazil's brother Adil Mehroof is among the eight accused, Parameshwara said that only investigation will establish that.

Asked why only Muslim community members were meeting him, Parameshwara said they were Congress members. "Leaders from the Muslim community met me. Can you say no to visitors? People from other communities too can come to me," he said.

On BJP leaders insisting that Suhas' case be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he said, "That is BJP's opinion. Our police are working efficiently. Eight people have been arrested. We believe the investigation is going well and that's why it has not been given to NIA"

On murders reported elsewhere in the state, he said the home department is taking all steps.

CONTINUED ON P4

**EXPRESS READ**

**Pvt firm employee held for molesting woman**

Bengaluru: A 32-year-old private company employee has been arrested for allegedly molesting a woman twice outside the main gate of Eco World tech park in Devarabeesanahalli. Accused Srikanth of Devarabeesanahalli holds an MBA degree | P2

# B'luru cops may summon Sonu Nigam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A day after an FIR was registered against singer Sonu Nigam for allegedly insulting Kannadigas, the police are now likely to issue a notice summoning him to appear before the investigation officer (IO) for questioning.

The FIR was filed following Nigam's controversial statement during a college concert, where he linked a request to sing a Kannada song with the Pahalgam terror attack — a remark that triggered widespread outrage and upset people in Karnataka. The Avalahalli police booked the singer on Saturday under Sections 351(1) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), and 353 (public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), after Nigam, who has sung numerous Kannada songs, allegedly took offence at being asked to sing in Kannada.

According to the FIR, the complainant, Dharmaraj A, president, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike's Bengaluru district unit, alleged that Nigam made objectionable remarks during a concert at East Point College of Engineering.

CONTINUED ON P5

# Silk cocoons eaten in SE Asia, K'taka aims to take lead in exports

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is the leader in production of silk sarees and other silk materials in the country, but it will now take the lead in exporting silk cocoons, which are consumed in North-Eastern states and South East Asian countries as they are a rich source of protein.

India has seen the opportunity early and found that the demand for silk cocoons is rising from countries where tourism is their primary source of income, like Singapore and other South East Asian countries.

"India is one of the largest silk producers, and Karnataka is the leader. Silk cocoons from here can be supplied to other countries where the demand is rising. We are working on keeping the cocoons alive after reeling the silk so that they can be exported. Already, the dead pupa, after reeling, is dried, powdered and exported. It is also fed to dogs as a protein supplement," Member Secretary and CEO, Central Silk Board (CSB), Sivakumar Periyasamy, said.

R&D is on to keep the pupa alive and documents are being prepared on the modalities for silk extraction from live pupa. In the North-East, eri silk pupa is consumed and in cities like Dimapur in Nagaland, it is sold at Rs 700-1,200 a kg. Consumption of silk cocoons is legal in other countries, and is a traditional practice in North-East India. The demand for mulberry silk cocoons is rising and since Karnataka leads in mulberry silk material production, it is the best place to source cocoon from. There is also a demand for silk protein-rich cosmetics from countries like Thailand. Work is happening to strengthen the silk byproduct sector, including pharmaceuticals. Here, researchers are working with private firms, Periyasamy said.

International studies have found silk cocoons to be rich in amino acids, healthy fats, omega-3, minerals and vitamins. It is consumed in large quantities in China, Vietnam and Japan.

The CSB is working on giving a stiff competition to China, which is also a large silk producer. An official from the Textile Ministry, also a member of the international seri-commission, not wanting to be named, said, "The target for raw silk production is 42,000 metric tonnes annually, but the production is 39,000 metric tonnes, 43% of this is from Karnataka, followed by North-Eastern states. India continues to import 2,500-3,000 metric tonnes from China. Steps are being taken to improve the international grade silk production and stop imports, while work is happening to strengthen the export of silk byproducts, including cocoons. We cannot let the market slip to China."

BJP MLA from Belthangady Harish Poonja has been booked by the Dakshina Kannada police over hate speech when prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNS are in place. One MS Ibrahim Musliyar from Uppinangady had lodged a police complaint against Poonja for making an inflammatory speech at an event

# 'INTERNAL RESERVATION TO PUT EQUALS IN ONE BASKET'

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

THOSE who have enjoyed the fruits of reservation have to sacrifice a little in favour of those who have not....Enumerators will conduct a door-to-door survey from May 5 to 17 to collect data for classification of internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs). Justice **HN Nagamohan Das**, who heads the Commission to collect empirical data and submit recommendations to the state government, spoke to *TNIE* about the survey and the commission's work. Excerpts.

**Could you tell us about the commission and its purpose?**
The Constitution provides reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). SCs enjoy 17 per cent reservation and STs get 7 per cent. Yet, only some SC sub-castes benefit from this reservation. Some of the deprived sub-castes fought for internal reservation and on August 1, 2024, the Supreme Court in the Davinder Singh case said providing internal reservation is in accordance with constitutional provisions. The Court also held that it is nothing but an extension of equality specified under Article 14 and for social justice. The Supreme Court said the governments are competent to provide internal reservations. Thus, the Karnataka government came forward to provide internal reservation and constituted this commission for providing internal reservation.

**On what basis should internal reservation be provided?**
The Supreme Court specified that internal reservation is to be provided based on empirical data, by finding out their educational backwardness, inadequacy of public employment, and social backwardness. This empirical data is not available in Karnataka. We have the 2011 census and the Justice AJ Sadashiva Commission reports. But these are 14 years old.

There are certain ambiguities with regard to Adi Andhra, Adi Karnataka, and Adi Dravida. There is a need for a proper bifurcation. On March 27, 2024, my commission submitted a report to the state government, following which orders were issued for a fresh survey of only SCs in Karnataka.

**How is the survey going to be done?**
A questionnaire has been prepared. A handbook guiding enumerators, trainers, and also community leaders campaigning for internal reservation has been prepared. Training of master trainers at the state, district and taluk levels, and enumerators has been completed.

We have appointed 58,932 teachers and Anganwadi workers, and 5,894 supervisors. The survey will be done in three stages. In the first, enumerators will go door-to-door from May 5 to 17, 2025. In the second stage, those left out can visit the camp set up at panchayat headquarters and give a self-declaration of their caste, family, and other details between May 19 and 21. In the third stage, people can submit their details online between May 19 and 23, 2025. The survey is being done through a mobile app.

**The commission already has the total number of SCs falling under 101 categories, and now this exercise is to bifurcate them into the appropriate categories...**
True. As per the 2011 census, there were over 1.04 crore SCs in Karnataka. Now, this number may be more. The number of families might have increased. Maybe their education, employment, income, profession, etc has changed. All this is necessary for creating internal reservation as per Supreme Court guidelines.

**What documents should people give during the survey?**
There is a lot of migrant population in Karnataka today. According to reports in newspapers, there are over 20 lakh migrant employees in Karnataka. What we want is they must be residents of Karnataka and belong to SCs. We are demanding a caste certificate. If that is not available, they can show ration card or Aadhaar card.

**What is the fate of the Jayaprakash Hegde/Kantharaju Commission reports which projected the SC community's population as 1.5 crore?**
Those reports are not available to me. When we commenced the commission's work, we wrote to the state government to provide the reports. So far, they have not been provided. Therefore, I cannot comment based on rumours or other information.

**Are you going to suggest removal of some castes included in 101 SCs because of political reasons?**
Classification is being done to find out educational backwardness. There may be some communities that are advanced in education, there may be some which are very backward. Similarly, some of the castes are very well present in Class A and Class B posts and there are some castes, who have not even become attenders. People from some castes have become MLAs and MPs, but those from some other castes have not even become panchayat members. Putting unequals in one basket is nothing but perpetuating inequality. The purpose of internal reservation is to put equals in one basket.

**Have you taken secondary sources of information from KPSC and government departments?**
We have the 2011 census and AJ Sadashiva survey reports. We have also written to all universities in Karnataka to provide details of SC students, lecturers, and non-teaching staff. We have written to all 43 state government departments to provide details — the presence of SCs and how many are in Class A, B, C and D, along with subcastes. The same has been sought from corporations.

The objective is not just to gather figures. We have to analyze and find out why some people remain without reaping the benefits of reservation for the past 75 years. Scientific classification is necessary. Reservation is to be allocated on priority basis. Those who have enjoyed the fruits of reservation for the last 77 years after Independence have to sacrifice a little in favour of those who have not enjoyed the fruits of reservation.

**What is scientific classification?**
It is a classification based on literacy rate. Education alone is not the criteria. Presence in public employment and how they are inadequately represented in public administration, political administration, and also their social backwardness should be considered. That is what the Supreme Court said in its judgment and used two words -- homogeneous and heterogeneous -- relying on several reports at the all-India level. It said the SCs are not homogeneous but they are heterogeneous. This commission also studied the condition of SCs in Karnataka. Though 101 castes are recognised as SCs, they are not equal and there are a lot of differences in many aspects. A cumulative effect of all these should reflect in classification.

**Is there any time-frame to submit the report?**
We are expecting survey reports by May-end, along with information sought from other sources. The next stage is data analysis. The sooner we complete it, the sooner reservation can be done.

**How many questions does the questionnaire have?**
Broadly 46 questions have been formed, there are some subquestions. The Adi Andhra, Adi Karnataka and Adi Dravida will be asked to provide their sub-castes. The questionnaire will also focus on education, public employment, political representation, land holding, housing, profession, occupation and income. In the 2011 census, there were 140 questions, and in the survey conducted by the OBC commission in Karnataka, there were more than 142 questions.

**How are you going to cross-verify the data provided?**
We will address them in the analysis part. The state government already has data of 18.5 lakh SC families. There may be another 3-4 lakh families. We are using electronic applications so that everything can be verified quickly.

**How do you plan to tackle cases of fake caste certificates?**
Fake caste certificates are an issue we cannot directly address. There are caste verification committees functioning in each district under DCs. Anybody can go and file a complaint with these committees if they come across cases of fake caste certificates. There is a system to deal with it.

**What about people who have converted to other religions?**
Those who have converted from Hinduism to Buddhism or Sikhism are treated as SCs. Those who have converted to Islam or Christianity are not provided with reservation. There is a demand from these people seeking an extension in reservation. For this, the Central government constituted a commission under the chairmanship of former Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan. The commission is on the job. Six months ago, they visited Bengaluru and held a public hearing to gather information.

**The Bhovi community has objected to the survey as their profession was not taken into consideration...**
Their apprehension is unfounded. The handbook clarifies the usage of the app. There are columns seeking professional details, and around 80 have been listed. There is another column asking about people's traditional occupations, with a long list of details. There is also a column stating others, where people can file their details.

**Do you think the survey will unite or create a divide among communities?**
The ambition is to unite. In 2019, the Karnataka government appointed my commission to hike reservation -- from 15 to 17 per cent for SCs, and from 3 to 7 per cent for STs. I had meetings across the state. Some SC communities said we may increase reservation, but what is the use for them? They told me that only by increasing reservation they will not be benefited, as some powerful and well-to-do among them will benefit. Then I realized the real problem of internal reservation. How can they be united if they are denied benefits for many years? To bring them together, give them space, opportunity, quota, and a little more of what they actually deserve. Through this, unity can be achieved.

**In admission to schools and colleges, caste certificate is becoming mandatory. Is that right?**
It's necessary. Poverty, unemployment, health issues, illiteracy, being shelterless and landless are more among lower castes than upper castes. They need different types of treatment. Until and unless their caste is known, it cannot be done. Dropouts in primary education are more among these castes, and to retain them they have to be facilitated with midday meals, uniforms, bicycles etc. The caste census helps the state in framing policies for their development.

**What do you say of the Central government announcing caste census?**
I welcome the decision and request it to do it as soon as possible, and do it with its real purpose.

**There were allegations about the Kantharaju Commission not conducting door-to-door surveys, what's your opinion?**
I cannot comment on that as the survey report was not provided to me.

**Will your survey be cent per cent?**
There cannot be 100% surveys anywhere in the world. Our target is not to miss out anyone. Internal reservation means not excluding a single person who is already enjoying the benefit of reservation, not including who is excluded.

**Have you gone through implementation of internal reservation in Telangana, Haryana and other states?**
We have studied data and legal frameworks. They have taken a decision to implement it, but it is not yet fructified and recruitment is yet to take place.

**Is conducting the survey in urban areas challenging?**
Yes, it is. In a city like Bengaluru, with 1.2 crore population, there are 1,200 slums where 80-90 per cent of SCs live. The remaining 15-20 per cent are spread across the city. We will go to their doors, and if they are not found or do not disclose their caste for social reasons, they can declare their details online. We are pressing for more enumerators in urban areas.

**How many families does each enumerator attend to?**
Each enumerator is allotted 120-130 families.

**Will the Central survey report be helpful and will you share data with them?**
When the Centre does it, our report is always open to update, nothing wrong in it. Only on the basis of the current situation are we going to classify quota, and if we get new information in another two, three or four years it can be updated.

# CM slams BJP for 'double standards' on caste census

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hangal (Haveri)

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being felicitated during the inauguration of development projects in Hangal taluk of Haveri district on Sunday | EXPRESS

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has accused the BJP of double standards on the issue of caste census, pointing out that the party which once opposed it, is now welcoming the move after the Union government announced its intention to conduct a nationwide survey.

Speaking to reporters in Akki Alur on Sunday, Siddaramaiah said, "Earlier, BJP leaders made politically motivated statements against the caste census. Now, they appear to be supporting it, based on changing realities." Quoting a well-known saying, he remarked, "For BJP leaders, water becomes sacred only when it comes from a conch."

Responding to former prime minister HD Deve Gowda's allegation that the Congress is adopting double standards on the issue of Pakistan, following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Siddaramaiah hit back: "What was Deve Gowda saying about Narendra Modi before leaning towards the BJP, and what is he saying now? If anyone is following double standards, it's Deve Gowda himself."

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for a dedicated task force to identify and counter communal and anti-social elements. He said the government is planning to establish such a force specifically to address communal violence in the coastal belt. "I will discuss the proposal with Home Minister G Parameshwara and take appropriate action," he added.

Asked about police claims that part of the Rs 25 lakh compensation given by the government to the family of Fazil, who was murdered in 2022, was allegedly used by his brother to fund the contract killing of Suhas Shetty, Siddaramaiah declined to comment. He, however, said he would speak with district minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Parameshwara, who recently visited Mangaluru.

On the occasion of the government's second anniversary, the CM confirmed that a special programme is being organised in Vijayanagar district to mark the administration's achievements.

### STF NEEDED TO CURB ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS: CM

HANGAL: CM Siddaramaiah here on Sunday emphasised the need for a special task force to curb and detect anti-social elements. At Akki Alur on Sunday, Siddaramaiah told reporters that he will take appropriate measures to curb communal violence in the coastal region after holding discussions with Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara. On Mangaluru police's revelation that Adil Mehroof -- brother of Mohammed Fazil, in whose murder Suhas was the main accused, allegedly used Rs 25 lakh compensation given by the government to hire contract killers to murder Suhas Shetty, the CM said he was unaware of the details. He promised to look into the matter after consulting with Parameshwara and Mangaluru district in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who both visited Mangaluru.

# Task force aims to curb Hindu activists: Suvarna

ENS @ Udupi

UDUPI MLA Yashpal Suvarna on Sunday claimed that the anti-communal task force announced by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, in the backdrop of the murder of VHP activist Suhas Shetty in Mangaluru, would work against Hindu activists. In a statement on Saturday night, Suvarna stated that the aim behind forming such a force by the government is to target Hindu activists and frame them in false cases. He further said that Parameshwara was pressurised by the Muslim community leaders during the former's recent visit to Mangaluru in this regard, and the home minister succumbed to the pressure tactics.

He said that during a meeting chaired by Parameshwara in Mangaluru recently, the Muslim community leaders expressed their anger while asserting their viewpoints, despite police presence. The ministers who came to Dakshina Kannada did not even consult local MLAs to discuss about restoring peace. ''Earlier, the Congress government didn't agree to form an anti-narcotics wing, however, now with the intention to curb the voice of Hindu activists, it is going ahead with forming an anti-communal task force,'' he rued. This way, the state government wants to portray the 'coastal district' as being communally-sensitive, which could impede its economic and social development.

Suvarna also sought the resignation of Assembly Speaker UT Khader, alleging that the latter tried to influence the investigation by falsely stating that Fazil's family had no role in Shetty's murder. ''Now details have emerged that Fazil's brother is the prime accused in Shetty's murder. Khader should resign,'' he demanded.

# Keep tabs on illegal PGs: Dr G to officers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE home minister has warned concerned police commissioners and superintendents of police to act soon after they receive any information about conspiracies hatched to murder someone.

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara here on Sunday said he has instructed police officers to keep a vigil on paying guest accommodations in their jurisdiction. The instructions were given in the wake of a girl allegedly walking naked at HSR Layout in broad daylight that reportedly disturbed the peace of residents. Parameshwara told the officers that information on PGs run legally and illegally should be gathered. "If someone is running a PG illegally, action should be taken against those who gave permission. The BBMP should take care of such issues," he suggested.

### MODI WITHHOLDING MAHADAYI CLEARANCE DUE TO FEAR OF GOA GOVT: SIDDU

HUBBALLI: CM Siddaramaiah alleged that PM Narendra Modi has been withholding environmental clearance for the Mahadayi diversion project due to fear of the Goa government. Responding to Union minister Pralhad Joshi's criticism of the state government for the KPSC changing the deadline for collecting hall tickets and issuing them just a few hours prior to the KAS main exam, Siddaramaiah said, "Joshi speaks on everything, except the most important issue: Why there is no environmental clearance for the Mahadayi project." The CM pointed out that Joshi, as a senior member of the Union Cabinet, should use his influence to secure the necessary approvals for the long-pending project. "He should be putting pressure on the Centre, instead of making baseless allegations," Siddaramaiah said. He reiterated that it was the Union Government's responsibility to expedite the environmental nod and urged Joshi to take the lead in securing it.

### PM RESPONSIBLE FOR PRICE RISE, HE FAILED TO DELIVER ON PROMISES, SAYS CM

HANGAL: Launching a scathing attack against PM Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday accused him of not only being responsible for rising prices, but also a leader who has failed to deliver on his promises. Speaking after inaugurating development works of Rs 650 crore and laying the foundation stone for new projects at Akki Alur, Siddaramaiah asked, "Can anyone point to even one promise made by PM Modi in his speeches that has actually been fulfilled?" He urged the public not to fall for what he called the BJP and JDS' "baseless claims" that the state's guarantee schemes had emptied the treasury. This year's budget is Rs 38,000 crore higher than last year's. Capital expenditure has risen by Rs 31,000 crore, to Rs 83,000 crore. Additionally, we have set aside Rs 50,000 crore specifically for the guarantee schemes. In total, Rs 1.33 lakh crore has been earmarked for development. This clearly exposes the BJP's falsehoods, he said.

AMBEDKAR'S POLL DEFEAT

# Prove allegations: Chalavadi to Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Council **Chalavadi Narayanaswamy** on Sunday said he would resign from his post and retire from politics if AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior Congress leaders prove their allegations that the RSS and the Communist Party defeated Dr BR Ambedkar in the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, the senior BJP leader said Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, minister Priyank Kharge and party leader Jairam Ramesh claim that the Congress did not defeat Ambedkar in the Lok Sabha polls. They instead blame Communist leader SA Dange and Veer Savarkar for his defeat, the BJP leader said.

Narayanaswamy said he would give a reward of Rs 1 lakh to the Congress leaders if they could prove their claims on the election of Ambedkar. He questioned them if they would resign if they failed to prove their claims.

Narayanaswamy said the Congress insulted the Constitution when it was in power, and now claims to be protecting it. He said when the BJP was in power in the state, it increased reservation for the Scheduled Castes, but the Congress has not implemented internal reservation for SCs.

On Sunday, an eight-year-old boy was killed when a harvester ran over him in Ibrahimpur village of Medak district. He was immediately taken to a private hospital in Narsingi, where doctors declared him brought dead. Victim's parents staged a protest in front of the vehicle owner's house

The pit dug up in Kullaipalayam as part of bridge construction works | EXPRESS

## Couple killed as bike falls into bridge work pit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tiruppur

A couple riding a two-wheeler with their daughter died after falling into an open pit dug up for the construction of a bridge on the Dharapuram–Kangeyam Road in Tiruppur on Sunday. The 12-year-old child, who survived the accident, spent a harrowing four hours in the pit till the police arrived.

Collector T Christuraj directed officials to issue notice to the contractor after visiting the spot as there were neither barricades around the pit nor signage alerting motorists to the danger. The deceased were identified as K Nagaraj (44) and his wife Anandhi (38) of Servakarampalayam. Their daughter, N Dikshitha, received first aid before being admitted to a private hospital in Coimbatore. According to police, Nagaraj was employed as a salesman at a Tasmac outlet. The family had gone on a pilgrimage to Tiruchendur on Friday. They returned to Dharapuram by bus. "From the bus stand in Dharapuram, they took their parked two-wheeler and were heading home to Suriyanallur when the accident occurred," the police said.

# BANDI SLAMS KCR, REVANTH OVER SOFT STANCE ON MAOISTS

Asks if Cong govt has guts to lift ban on ultras

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Karimnagar

HITTING back at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for stating that the issue of Maoists should be viewed from a social perspective and not as a law and order problem, and BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao for suggesting a halt to Operation Kagar, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar reiterated that now there is "no scope for any dialogue" with the banned organisation.

He was addressing the media after attending the unveiling of

Lord Hanuman statue at Kothapally here on Sunday.

"No talks with Maoists. No question of any kind of dialogue. They should lay down their arms and surrender before the police. They should mend their ways," he said.

"Is it appropriate to view the Maoists carrying guns and killing innocent people and tribals as a social issue? When they plant bombs, like Claymore mines, and blow up policemen, should we see it from a social perspective? Wasn't it the Congress governments that banned the Maoists in the first place? Then why this soft tone about the social angle and dialogue now? Didn't you remember all this when many tribals, civilians and police were being killed?" he asked.

Sanjay challenged whether the Congress government has the guts to lift the ban imposed on Maoists in the state.

"The remarks made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy about Operation Kagar are absurd. What do you mean by saying that the Naxal issue should be seen from a social angle? What kind of logic is that? Maoists are armed with guns. They are killing innocent people and tribes. They are planting bombs and killing police. In the midst of all this, how can you say it should be seen through a social lens? Isn't that proof of their double standards?"

"KCR occasionally pops up in public and then disappears. Both KCR and Revanth Reddy are now competing to speak in favour of the Naxals," he said.

Referring to the issue of Pakistani nationals staying in Telangana, he said: The Union government has already given instructions to all the states. This matter is being taken seriously across the country.

# Wrongly detained teen alleges abuse by cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kozhikode

AN 18-year-old youth from Cheruvannur was reportedly beaten up by police after being mistaken for an associate of an accused in an abduction case in Meppayur, in Kozhikode district. **Adhil P**, a student of hospital administration, suffered an injury to his ear in the incident.

Adhil filed a complaint with the DGP, the Kerala State Human Rights Commission and Meppayur police.

According to the complaint, Adhil was waiting at the Digital Seva Kendra, near Meppayur police station, last Friday afternoon when plainclothes police officers from Kalamassery in Kochi apprehended him, took him into the station and beat him up. The police team was after an accused in a kidnapping-for-ransom case involving a 22-year-old man from Kalamassery.

On supposedly realising their mistake, officers issued an apology and released Adhil. The police team had been tracking Muhammed Hashir, one of the suspects in the kidnapping of Sourav. As part of their operation to trap Hashir, from

Meppayur, the 21-year-old was led to believe that the ransom money was kept in the vicinity of the Seva Kendra.

"I was at the Seva Kendra to procure documents to open a bank account. I noticed Hashir at the location. All of a sudden, a group of police officers in civvies reached there and detained me and another man waiting at the facility, along with Hashir, and led us to the police station around 2.40 pm. Despite pleading my innocence, officers beat me up. When they realised the error they apologised and promised to help me open the bank account. They released me around 3.30 pm. The beating left me with severe ear pain and I consulted a doctor the same day. The subsequent scan and tests revealed an injury to the eardrum. I have been advised medication and rest for a month," Adhil told *TNIE*.

Meanwhile, Meppayur police admitted that it was a mistake on their part. "We had been on the lookout for Hashir. After leading him into our trap, officers wanted to ensure that he does not escape. We took Adhil into custody in the belief that he's associated with Hashir. We questioned him, but we didn't assault him," said E K Shiju, SHO, Meppayur station.

SHOWERS OF RELIEF

Chennai caught off-guard as a sudden bout of rain brings down the temperature by a few notches on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

## K'taka men held with ₹5crore were habitual offenders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

THE two Karnataka natives, who were arrested in Koduvally with over ₹5 crore in unaccounted money on Saturday, were habitual black money smugglers and had come to Kozhikode several times in the past with cash, the police have learnt. The cops have intensified their investigation into the incident.

Police officers had come to Elettil Vattoli near Koduvally around 10am on Saturday for inspection in a drug abuse incident when they spotted the car parked in the area. Suspicious, they checked the vehicle and found the money hidden in secret compartments. Following the seizure, Raghavendra and Nijin Ahamed, both from Karnataka, were arrested. Thamarassery DySP Sushir K is handling the probe. As per the police, the car had been used to transport money regularly. As per initial information provided by the police, the money was to be delivered to a Narikkuni native. "The police have intensified the investigation. More arrests will be made in the coming days," said Sushir.

Initially, about ₹4 crore, which was kept in five secret compartments in the car, were recovered. Later, while dismantling the car, the police stumbled upon another compartment.

## I perform in K'taka with respect: Sonu Nigam

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

DHARMARAJ A mentioned that a student requested Nigam to sing a Kannada song, to which the singer responded by saying, "Kannada, Kannada, Kannada — this is why the Pahalgam incident (terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 tourists were killed) happened."

The complainant said that by equating a Kannada song request with an act of terrorism, Nigam insulted Kannadigas and their cultural identity. He added that the singer's remarks defamed the Kannadiga community, portrayed them as intolerant or violent and deeply hurt their sentiments. The complaint noted that such remarks could lead to tension in a peaceful state like Karnataka.

TA Narayana Gowda, state president, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, demanded Nigam's immediate arrest and strict legal action. He said Kannadigas have always shown immense love and respect for Nigam. "No other artist had received such admiration here. In return, we expected him to show the same affection and sensitivity towards Kannadigas. Instead, he compared a simple request for a Kannada song to a terrorist act — this is unacceptable," he said, adding that someone who received so much from Karnataka should have honoured that bond, not belittled it.

### Nigam issues clarification

After the FIR was registered, Sonu Nigam, via a social media post, issued a clarification, in which he once again referred to the Pahalgam terrorist attack. He said, "The best songs I have sung are in Kannada. Whenever I perform in Karnataka, I do so with a lot of respect. You have treated me like family. But I did not appreciate it when a group of 4-5 boys there 'threatened' rather than insisting that I sing in Kannada. I've been singing in Kannada for more years than their age. He was shouting 'Kannada, Kannada' in a rude and threatening tone. This kind of attitude is what leads to incidents like the Pahalgam attack. Look at who's standing here — I love Kannadigas," the singer maintained.

## Ankola's Belgian Malinois duo joins CRPF for field ops

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S
@ Bavikere (Uttara Kannada)

TWO Belgian Malinois from Ankola taluk have made it to the CRPF camp in Bengaluru where they will be trained and used in field operations. These dogs have been gifted by Ankola's Raghavendra Bhat to serve the nation. Bhat, who works as a district disability officer in the Department of Women and Child Development, has several rare breeds of dogs including Indian breeds Bully Kutta (Indian Mastiff which is similar to Pit Bull), Mudhol hounds, German shepherd and boxer.

A couple of years ago, Belgian Malinois pups of Bavikere in Ankola created history when the paramilitary forces of Assam Rifles sought them to patrol the borders of Myanmar and Bangladesh. The puppies from

CRPF team with two puppies at Bavikere

Ankola will be taken to the Dog Breeding and Training Centre at Taralu near Kaggalipura on Kanakapura Road near Bengaluru and will be trained for 40 weeks before being deployed for duty.

The dogs, bred by Bhat in Bavikere village, will be handed over to the CRPF officials on Tuesday. "Two officials came to see the dogs. They tested them for their alertness, quality, height and weight and their response, to assess whether they meet their requirement," he told *TNIE*.

Activists stage a protest near St Mary's School in Kalaburagi

## Kalaburagi DC to conduct inquiry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

KALABURAGI South MLA Allamaprabhu Patil came to the venue, spoke with the activists and telephoned the deputy commissioner and police commissioner and asked them to hold a proper inquiry and punish the guilty. The protesters shouted slogans and held a dharna for nearly two hours. They wanted the police to bring out the accused who asked the candidate to remove the janivara and make him apologise.

When Sripad came out after finishing the test, the protesters conducted a ceremony to make him wear the janivara again. Uttaradi Mutt Mathadhikari Ramacharya Ghanti chanted mantras and made Sripad wear a fresh janivara. Priests from both Vaishnava and Smartha sub-castes chanted mantras.

Sripad told the media that as he was tensed after asked to remove the janivara, he wrote the wrong registration number on the answer sheet. He demanded a reexamination for him.

Official sources told TNIE that two persons (Ganesh and Sharanagouda) had been hired from the Revanasidda outsourcing agency to frisk candidates at the exam centre. They were told not to allow any metal objects and threads. Sources said that officials frisking Sripad did not specifically ask him to remove the janivara. But Sripad apparently got confused, went out in tears and handed over the janivara to his father.

Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Taranum told TNIE that she will conduct an inquiry, including examining the CCTV footage, and take action against the guilty. The candidate and his parents are likely to file a complaint against the officials at the Station Bazar police station.

EXPRESS READ

### Drunk man ploughs car into crowd, 1 dead

Ramanathapuram: One was killed and 11 others were injured after a drunk man rammed his car into them following an argument over an accident near Ammankovil on Saturday. The deceased is Sathaiya (55). According to police, while Ramanatha Prabhu and his friends were driving, a truck brushed against their car. A quarrel broke out between Prabhu and truck driver Karthik. Prabhu, who allegedly was drunk left the scene. After driving a short distance, he took a U-turn and saw a crowd gathered near the village and ploughed into them. Prabhu has been arrested. **ENS**

### Fill tech posts in RTCs: KSRTC JAC urges min

Bengaluru: The Joint Action Committee (JAC), led by the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)-affiliated KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation, has written to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy urging him to get approval for recruitment in technical posts in bus corporations in the next cabinet meeting. In the letter, federation president H V Anantha Subbarao said, "During our meeting with CM Siddaramaiah, we brought to his notice the long-pending demands, to which he assured that he would address them." **ENS**

### 4 pilgrims from Kerala die in van-bus crash

Tiruvarur: A pilgrimage to Velankanni turned tragic for a group of seven friends from Kerala when their vehicle collided head-on with a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) bus on the East Coast Road near Karuveppanchery of Tiruvarur district on Sunday around 6.30 am, leaving four dead and three injured. The driver of the van lost control and rammed into the bus en route to Erwadi. The deceased were Sajinath (25), Rajesh (30), Rahul (29), and Sujith (25). Saravanan, the bus driver, was detained for questioning.

**Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Limited**
(CIN: U40107KA2015PLCO79223)
No. 6/13/1, KREDL Building, 5th Floor, 10th Block, Nagarabhavi, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 072.
No.: KSPDCL/F-254/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Limited hereby invites Electronic bids for Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of the Solar Street Lighting Systems with 5 years warranty including operation & maintenance from Thirumani to Rayacherlu Village Road (2.2kms) in Thirumani Grama Panchayat of Pavagada Taluk under CSR funds of KSPDCL. Bid documents will be available in the KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 06.05.2025.**

**Note:** KSPDCL reserves the right to annul the bidding process and invite fresh bids without liability or obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reasons.

**Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, KSPDCL**

**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
**(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)**
**OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer,**
**KNNL, R & R Divn. Athani – 591 304.**
No./KNNL/R&R/PB/TND/2025-26/135 Date: 29-04-2025

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH "e-Procurement" ONLY)**

Electronic percentage tender through KPP platform KW-3 and KW-2 Basis in Two Cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer KNNL R &R Division, Atahni on behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building No:1 Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-01 for the work of 1) KPP I.NO 2928 2) KPP I.NO 2927 The blank tender documents can be obtained and uploaded through KPPP between 05.05.2025 @ 10.30 AM to 12.05.2025 upto 4.00 PM. 2) Last date for tender queries 09-05-2025 upto 4:00 pm at 11.00 AM 3) Last Date for submission 12.05.2025 upto 4.00 PM 4) Opening of Technical bid on 14-05-2025 @ 11.00 AM 5) Opening of Financial bid on 19-05-2025 @ 11.00 AM 6) Stipulated period Sl.No.01 is 06 Months & Sl.No.2 is 03 months including mansoon 7) Amount put to tender for 1) Rs.82.25 lakhs(ex.GST) 2) Rs 42.27 lakhs(ex.GST) & 8) class of Contractor KPWD Class-III and above Registered contractors for both SR 1 and 2.

Any information required in this regard can be had from the E-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL R&R Division Athani and this office Telephone No.08289-285031 during office hours.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-170/KSMCA/2025-26
**Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL R&R Division, Athani.**

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**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

| Description | Details |
|---|---|
| Name of work | Providing Air Conditioning for Internal Fabrication Facility (IFF-1) at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037. |
| E-Tender Notice | URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/1049/ETN-66A/2025-26 Dt.02.05.2025 |
| Estimated cost put to Tender | ₹ 42.44 Lakhs |
| Tender Document Details | **E-Tender** |
| Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order | 180 days / 06 months |
| Period during which the tender document can be downloaded. | From 10:30 Hrs. on 05.05.2025 to 16:30Hrs. on 19.05.2025 |
| Bid clarification | From 11:00 Hrs. on 05.05.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. on 21.05.2025 |
| Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification. | Upto 17:00hrs on 23.05.2025 |
| Last date and time for receipt of tenders. | Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 30.05.2025 |
| Due date and time of opening of tenders. | After 15:00 Hrs. on 30.05.2025 |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | **₹ 84,880.00 (Validity for 180 days)** |

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

**Sd/-**
**Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)**

# EDITORIAL

Correction does much, but encouragement does much more

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## BLOT OUT CASTE BIAS, CAMPUSES MUST BUILD LIVES, NOT TAKE THEM

NEARLY a decade after University of Hyderabad research scholar Rohith Vemula died by suicide over alleged caste discrimination on campus, comprehensive and punitive regulatory mechanisms are still awaited. On April 24, the Supreme Court gave the University Grants Commission (UGC) the go-ahead to notify its latest 'equity regulation' draft to supersede the existing one from 2012. A National Task Force, set up by the apex court in March, is also tasked with recommending solutions against discrimination abetting campus suicides. Amid these divergent exercises, the mothers of Vemula and another victim, Payal Tadvi, have argued before the court that the draft UGC guidelines do not address the core issue—normalisation of discrimination of marginalised community students through ostracism in higher educational institutions.

They asked for the UGC draft guidelines to be in abeyance until the task force had submitted its report. The petitioners are unhappy with the new draft merging regulations related to ragging, sexual harassment, and other atrocities with caste discrimination. The UGC must appreciate that caste discrimination is a much more deviant social crime than ragging. It is at the core of centuries of oppression faced by marginalised communities. Powerful laws have failed to check it over the decades. Guidelines exist even now to identify discrimination, but in the absence of oversight, accountability and punishment apparatuses specifically dealing with complaints of caste-based discrimination, they remain ineffective.

Caste discrimination is a silent actor, turning campuses into battlegrounds for marginalised students to constantly fight for their dignity. Equality cells and counselling services do exist but are meaningless if students must return to the same antagonistic environment. The panacea for caste bias is fighting institutional casteism and not filing police complaints. Transformative justice must be the cornerstone against discrimination beyond punitive means and through structural changes. Giving admission to marginalised students provides them no solace if the campuses remain socially and culturally alien to them. Education empowers the marginalised, and if university administrations create an equitable atmosphere, it can also be the social equaliser. The UGC must acknowledge institutionalised casteism on campuses as one more link in the chain of historical injustices and treat it as a violation of the constitutional rights of students. Caste discrimination is a social evil, not a felony.

## INCLUSIVE TECH CAN AVERT DIGITAL DIVIDE

IN a welcome judgement, the Supreme Court recognised the right to digital access as a fundamental right. It declared that the 'right to life' under the Constitution's Article 21 must be re-interpreted from a technological viewpoint. The court order seeks a revision in digital Know Your Customer processes to make them more inclusive and directs the Union government and Reserve Bank of India to adopt alternative methods of e-verification, other than the mandatory selfie with 'blinking eyes'. With biometric identification intrinsic to digital banking, this promises to ease the path for visually impaired, physically challenged and disfigured individuals who otherwise risk neglect. While hearing petitions from a visually impaired person and an acid attack survivor, the court placed the onus on governments to appoint departmental nodal officers to ensure digital accessibility compliance. This far-reaching judgment addresses the fear that technology is creating a new class system where sections of rural and tribal populations, senior citizens, linguistic groups, and uneducated and economically weaker sections could find themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Digital tools should facilitate people and not become barriers. E-KYC is crucial to banking, education, healthcare, essential services, tax portals, travel documents, etc. It is reported Aadhaar, while enabling large sections of the country's population to gain a digital identity, also cuts the other way, leaving the disadvantaged out in the cold. As a mandatory document, Aadhaar provides access to the government's social welfare programmes, especially the public distribution system, but in many cases, it has deprived needy families of subsidised food grains due to OTP authentication glitches. The Aadhaar-mobile number link has inadvertently created barriers in processing applications and documents, as have biometric mismatches. Accident victims who have lost their hands or suffered facial disfigurement are unable to verify their identity, while internet and mobile phone penetration in interior villages is another key barrier.

The internet has revolutionised the world as a great equaliser, giving access to knowledge and opportunities, but it is more tuned to the urban user. Innovative technical tools like AI can make the journey even easier, but only if such software helps people access digital platforms, applications, and assisted technology. We must ensure technology does not create a digital disconnect or make the marginalised sections even more vulnerable.

**QUICK TAKE**

### DEAL WITH DOUBTS

THE Orissa High Court ruled last week that a doctor isn't criminally responsible for prescribing an expensive drug if it's necessary for treatment. It said if the pharma company benefits, it is not an undue favour. However, the most common complaint in India is that the medicine doctors prescribe is often available only at pharmacies near their clinics. Perhaps that's because they know which drugs best suit the patients, and pharmacies in their vicinity usually keep those brands. It may even raise concerns about extraneous considerations prompting doctors to prescribe particular brands. To assuage patients buying medicine elsewhere, regulators must mandate doctors to suggest alternatives along with the prescribed drug.

BJP's *volte face* on caste census surprised many within the party, too. It remains to be seen how the party communicates the significance of its action down the line

## THE PARADOX OF USHERING IN MANDAL 2.0

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

Columnist and political commentator

SOURAV ROY

EVERY now and then, India witnesses a politically momentous event arising from the internal compulsions of the ruling establishment. Often masked in utilitarian jargon, suggesting that these decisions are meant for the greatest good of the greatest number, the cynicism at the root is unmistakable.

Demonetisation was announced in November 2016, before the Uttar Pradesh polls. The run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election was marked by the criminalisation of 'triple talaq', the reading down of Article 370, amendments to the Citizenship Act, and air strikes on Balakot inside Pakistan—all of which whipped up the poll season's volatility.

Six months hence, Bihar, an electorally significant heartland state, will elect its next legislature. Until last week, it seemed that the dominant issue would be the Centre's anticipated retaliatory punch on Pakistan to avenge the Pahalgam carnage. Narendra Modi's red-blooded personality embedded in the larger theme of the BJP genre of nationalism was believed to shape the overriding narrative.

Indeed, when the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) met on April 30, as it did in 2019 before the Balakot air raids, an announcement of a counter-assault by India was expected. To the surprise of many, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav, the official spokesperson, informed that the government would include caste enumeration of all groupings, including the other backward classes (OBCs), in the impending census that was deferred because of the pandemic. However, no timeline was given, stoking the opposition's charge that this decision would be in limbo, like the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

The BJP claimed that the decision was a "super surgical strike" on the opposition, not realising that the move was riddled with problems for the party in Bihar. In one fell swoop, it concluded that the Congress—which spearheaded the demand for a caste census under Rahul Gandhi, who flagged the issue in his Bharat Jodo Yatra—and the splinters from the socialist bloc surviving on Mandalised politics in Bihar and UP had been deprived of their bragging rights. The BJP ushered in Mandal 2.0, which it claimed would fortify its own OBC politics for time to come.

It was apparent that most of the PM's ministerial colleagues were clueless about the caste census. Modi met RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohanrao Bhagwat a day before the CCPA meeting and got the go-ahead. The Sangh had always taken a nuanced position on caste enumeration, bordering on ambiguity.

Until now, the BJP had rejected the idea outright. On the other hand, the RSS's stated position was a caste census was acceptable as long as it was not used as a "political tool" and was deployed to deliver targeted welfare schemes to the disadvantaged. The Sangh was silent on increasing the reservation quota beyond the legally mandated cap of 50 percent in educational institutions and government jobs.

In a press briefing on April 30, Rahul Gandhi recalled that as recent as the Jharkhand polls, Modi's line was there were only four castes in India—women, youth, farmers and the poor. In September 2021, the Centre told the Supreme Court, "Caste-wise enumeration in the census was given up as a matter of policy from 1951 onwards." On July 20, 2021, Union minister of state Nityanand Rai, an MP from Bihar, told parliament that the government would only count the scheduled castes and tribes in the census.

A day before the decision was unveiled, senior minister Nitin Gadkari, a CCPA member, derided the caste census at a book launch in Delhi, saying it was against "Hindutva's core ideology". BJP lore has it that Gadkari, a former BJP president, is very close to Bhagwat and the Sangh. Clearly, he was kept out of the loop, as were the other CCPA members, barring Amit Shah, the home minister and a Modi confidant. As with other consequential decisions, the PM did not risk holding wider internal consultations in which the most obvious question possibly would have been, how do we explain our *volte face*? To pander to OBCs and extremely backward classes (EBCs)?

It's not as though Bihar was below the BJP's radar. It was prioritised in the last Union budget; leaders in Patna sang hosannas on Modi's "commitment" to the state's development. From setting up a new Makhana Board for fox nut cultivation and a new airport to more aid for the Western Koshi Canal project and IT expansion, the budget had a lot to offer the state.

Several factors prompted the compulsion behind the census move. Rahul's emphasis and his 'Save the Constitution' march could not be scoffed at; that time was gone. The Lok Sabha outcome in Maharashtra and UP was a reflection of the BJP's disdain, although it escaped that fate in Bihar. The JD(U) under Nitish Kumar had done a caste survey in 2023 when the RJD and the Congress were allies. The survey revealed that 63 percent of the population comprised OBCs and EBCs, the latter being an important constituent of the BJP-led NDA coalition.

The BJP's advantage lies in communicating the significance of its action. To the Congress's insistence that it had the first-mover advantage because its governments in Karnataka and Telangana had already conducted caste surveys, the BJP's answer was that these exercises were not censuses but objects used as "political tools". Under the Constitution, the census is a Union subject.

Where the Congress inherited a dubious legacy on implementing the Mandal Commission's recommendation for a 27 percent OBC quota by dithering for ages, the BJP demonstrated political agility by embracing the far-reaching suggestion and disproved the belief that it pandered largely to the upper castes.

There's no doubt that since 1989, the upper castes of north India have sworn allegiance to the BJP, with occasional departures, as in UP. With the caste census as its new mascot, the BJP can fulfil its OBC agenda only if it exponentially increases the number of tickets given to the BCs, especially EBCs, who make up 36 percent of Bihar's population, per Nitish Kumar's survey.

In the last election, 47.3 percent of the BJP's tickets went to the upper castes. Can a reordering of priorities upset the apple cart this time? The BJP will also have to contend with the possibility that the census move might not pass legal scrutiny with the Supreme Court's stipulated ceiling on reservation.

*(Views are personal)*
*(ramaseshan.radhika@gmail.com)*

## THE FORCE THAT CAN BIND US

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THIS week I would like to recall instances I have observed or heard of about how love and peace can be expressed through cultural gestures—love for God, for Nature, for each other as Earth's children. One April, I got to witness the Brahmotsavam or 10-day annual festival of the grand temple in Mylapore, an ancient inland pocket of Chennai, in a heritage walk led by Carnatic historian Sriram V Mylapore is an anglicised form of Mayurapuram, meaning 'the place of peacocks'.

Mylapore is built around the temple to Shiva-Parvati where they are worshipped as Kapalishwarar and Karpagambal. I'm told that *Karpagambal* refers to the celestial tree karpagam. Parvati is also known as 'Goddess of the wish-yielding tree' that grants everything sincerely asked for. There was a Kartikeya temple, it seems, on the present site.

The original Shiva-Parvati temple was by the ocean, but was destroyed in the early colonial period. It shifted to its present location thereafter, which, joked Sriram V, amounts to the parents moving into the son's house. The link with the old site is maintained even now, through an annual ritual by the sea.

An old Nawab of Arcot donated land to the present Kapalishwarar temple to build its temple tank. The *sthala vriksham* or sacred tree of the Kapalishwarar temple is the *punnai*, also known as *nagchampa* in Sanskrit, and 'Alexandrian laurel'. It is believed to be one of the oldest trees in Chennai. Legend says that Karpagambal worshipped Shiva under a *punnai* tree. In history, the punnai was used by ancient Chola ship-builders to make ships for their blue-water navy and is still used for boat-building.

I was greatly struck by reading in a book on sacred trees that in India, "trees are considered like human beings, as if blessed with a soul and a heart that weeps with grief and laughs with joy. It is believed they have feelings and aspirations like mankind." Just so, Parvati, the mother goddess, embodies unconditional love in Indian tradition, and I recalled a story about one of her famous devotees, the Kanchi Mahaswami, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati (1894–1994).

He often toured the country meeting people from all walks of life. On one such occasion, sometime in the 1960s, he was camped by the river Kaveri. An old, blind Muslim gentleman of the region sent word that he wished to meet the sage, who sent word back inviting him to the evening *sadas* or gathering. When the old gentleman arrived, devotees on duty escorted him to the sage and seated him close by.

A debate was going on between invited Sanskrit pandits on the nature and attributes of *Brahman*, the Supersoul or God. The discussion was highly learned and intense, since each participant was a *tarka simham* or 'lion of debate'.

The sage and the old gentleman listened with great interest to fascinating theories and beautiful quotations. The Muslim gentleman appeared to follow everything as though he too was well-versed in Sanskrit. This attracted many curious glances from the gathering. But the sage appeared impervious to their glances and whispers.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

During a gathering of Sanskrit pandits on the banks of the Kaveri to discuss the nature and attributes of Brahman, a Hindu sage invited a Muslim man in the audience to share his perception of God. The man stood and spoke, his words stirring deep emotion in the crowd and reminding all that God is eternal love that transcends petty human conflicts and quarrels

When the scholars were done, the sage invited the old gentleman to speak about God according to the view of his religion. The old gentleman demurred. "I'm afraid to speak, I'm not usually asked to give my views," he said. But the sage insisted. "I know that you know Sanskrit and followed every point made. Now do tell them about God as you were taught," he invited cordially.

The old gentleman could not say no to the sage. He stood up and said, "My religion does not ascribe a form to God. But it speaks of God's love. Today I have sensed that love, *anbey swarupam* (the embodiment of love)," and pointed to the sage. The pandits and onlookers found themselves in tears. Such mutual love and respect are also 'us' if we choose to co-exist pleasantly.

As to which, Sriram V also told us of an unusual foreign contribution to the Mylapore Brahmotsavam. We had gathered at 6 am at Kapalishwarar's door to see the day's magnificent, orderly Adhikara Nandi procession. I cannot properly describe the joy of witnessing that beautiful living tradition, or the mannerly, gentle crowd, or the good energy of local residents who drew *kolams* and did *harati* in welcome along the route, or the melodious singing of *Thevaram*, the ancient Shaiva litanies, inside the temple. A family that lived by the temple tank was known to have performed annadanam or 'food seva' for pilgrims during Brahmotsavam since the mid-19th century.

But why were temple ropes and pandal poles along the procession's route wrapped in red and white cloth, the colours of the Union Jack? Sriram V told us that for centuries, the temple chariot used to be pulled by 'left' and 'right' groups during Brahmotsavam. The left group wrapped its ropes in white cloth and the right group used cloth of many colours. However, they quarrelled so violently in the 19th century that the East India Company, which ruled the land then, had to intervene. Colours from the Union Jack were accepted for good, and Kapalishwarar's chariot did the rounds under British rule with the flag of St George and the dragon flying above in protection. The choice of red and white cloths remains.

Surely the moral, if any, of this extraordinary story is that every so-called spiritual conflict has a practical solution. After all, the enigmatic smiles of the deities are meant to be a reminder that eternal God transcends petty human conflicts and quarrels.

*(Views are personal)*
*(shebaba09@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

**WRITE TO:** letters@newindianexpress.com

### Restore ties

Ref: *Canada elects, India reflects* (May 4). Canadian voters, by electing Carney, clearly demonstrated their preference for peace over provocation and governance over grievance. India must see this as an opportunity to renew bilateral relations that nosedived under former PM Justin Trudeau.
**D Sethuraman, Chennai**

### Fascinating subject

Ref: *The buffalo roams our mythscape* (May 4). The column explores the captivating mythology of the buffalo demon Mahisha and the goddess Durga. The buffalo's symbolism across tribes is both fascinating and deserving of deeper exploration. We must delve into our cultural heritage and uncover the stories that shape our identities.
**Sridevi Tejaswani K, Secunderabad**

### Merit's importance

Ref: *Caste census casts questions on job creation* (May 4). A caste census can be valuable for identifying which castes and sub-castes benefit from reservation policies. However, removing the 50 percent cap on reservations would harm the country. Disregarding merit in education and government could damage the economy, as China's rapid development shows the importance of merits.
**P G Moorthy, Thiruvananthapuram**

### Firm action

Ref: *Further squeeze* (May 4). The Centre has taken firm steps against Pakistan, with the latest being the suspension of both direct and indirect imports. However, the government must ensure this does not lead to market disruptions or adversely affect domestic supply and pricing.
**S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai**

### Trump effect

Ref: *Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins second three-year term* (May 4). During elections in Australia and Canada, Donald Trump's foreign policy was a key issue. The trade war he has unleashed and his revisionist approach to America's alliances have spread panic among Washington's close allies. Interestingly, Trump has been a boon to left-wing politics.
**C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam**

### New institute

Ref: *Indian Institute of Creative Tech on the lines of IIT, IIM in Mumbai soon* (May 4). The proposed launch of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai—modelled on the IITs and IIMs—will help bring a creative edge to India's tech landscape.
**P V Prakash, Mumbai**

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**POSTS OF THE DAY**

**Yogi Adityanath** @myogiadityanath

The demise of Kashi's renowned yoga guru 'Padma Shri' Swami Shivanand ji, who made an unparalleled contribution in the field of 'Yoga', is extremely sad.

**Supriya Shrinate** @SupriyaShrinate

Pahalgam terror attack... Narendra Modi went to Bihar event instead of Kashmir where he did not even mention Pakistan... did not attend the all-party meeting

**Akhilesh Yadav** @yadavakhilesh

Now, the only hope left is that courts will resist the illicit intentions of the rulers, who, ignoring people & the country, collude with 'unrighteous middlemen' to make profits

# SC reconstitutes bench to hear pleas on ED powers

## Court to decide if its 2022 verdict on agency needs reconsideration

**SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY**
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has reconstituted a three-judge bench to decide if its 2022 verdict upholding the Enforcement Directorate's powers to arrest and attach property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) needs reconsideration.

The reconstituted bench of Justice Surya Kant, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice N Kotiswar Singh will take up a batch of petitions seeking a review of the 2022 verdict. The matter is listed for hearing on May 7. Earlier, a bench of Justice Kant, Justice Bhuyan and Justice CT Ravikumar was hearing the matter. Justice Ravikumar superannuated on January 5.

On March 6, after the pleas were listed before a two-judge bench, Justice Kant told the lawyers appearing in the matter that it was wrongly listed and assured them that a new three-judge bench would shortly take up the issue.

In its Vijay Madanlal Choudhary judgment delivered on July 27, 2022, the top court in July 2022 upheld the ED powers of arrest and attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under the PMLA.

**'ECIR copy not mandatory'**

The SC said authorities under the 2002 law were "not police officers as such" and the ECIR could not be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure. It had said supply of an ECIR copy in every case to the person concerned was not mandatory and it was enough if the ED had disclosed the grounds for it.

The court delivered its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the process of arrest, investigation, seizure carried out by the probe agency, ED and seeking interpretation of provisions of the PMLA.

In August that year, the top court agreed to hear pleas seeking review of its verdict and observed that two aspects -- not providing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and reversal of the presumption of innocence – "prima facie" required reconsideration.

Observing it was common the world over that money laundering was a "threat" to the good functioning of a financial system, the apex court upheld the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA, underlining it was not an "ordinary offence".

The top court had said authorities under the 2002 law were "not police officers as such" and the ECIR could not be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure. It had said supply of an ECIR copy in every case to the person concerned was not mandatory and it was enough if the ED, at the time of arrest, disclosed the grounds for it.

The verdict came on a batch of more than 200 petitions filed by individuals and other entities questioning various provisions of the PMLA, a law the opposition often claims is weaponised by the government to harass its political adversaries. Section 45 of the PMLA, which deals with offences to be cognisable and non-bailable and have twin conditions for bail, is reasonable and does not suffer from the vice of arbitrariness or unreasonableness, the top court had said.

# Take onus for Cong past mistakes, says Rahul on Sikh riots

**PREETHA NAIR** @ New Delhi

CLARIFYING his position on Congress's role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said that he was more than happy to take "responsibility for the wrongs the party has committed" in its history, though a lot of the "mistakes" happened when he was not there.

He made these remarks on April 21 during an interactive session at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University during his US visit. The interaction video was uploaded to the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs' YouTube channel on Saturday.

Gandhi was responding to a Sikh student's question as to what attempts he was making to reconcile with the Sikh community and referred to the anti-Sikh riots in his lengthy response. "I have publicly stated that what happened in the 80s was wrong; I have been to the Golden Temple multiple times; I have an extremely good relationship with the Sikh community in India and a loving relationship with them," the Congress leader replied.

"I don't think that anything scares the Sikhs. The statement I made was that we want an India where people are uncomfortable expressing their religion. As far as mistakes of the Congress are concerned, many of those mistakes happened when I was not there, but I am more than happy to take responsibility for everything the party has ever done wrong in its history."

The student also referred to Gandhi's remark during an earlier visit to the US during which he had said the fight he was fighting was about whether Sikhs would be allowed to wear a turban in India or not.

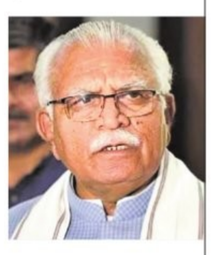
During his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Punjab in 2023, Gandhi endorsed the position taken by former PM Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi on Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots. His response came after opposition parties in the state sought his apology for the issue.

"Former PM Dr Manmohan Singh had made his and the party's position clear on the floor of the House. Sonia Gandhi had also done the same. I endorse what they said," Rahul told a press conference.

**INSIDER TRACK**

## Double-engine pressure in the capital

With the BJP now in charge at the Centre and in Delhi, some major city development projects might finally get moving. These include fixing Delhi's messy waste management system and rolling out the much-talked-about land pooling policy. Earlier, when the AAP ran Delhi, many of these projects hit roadblocks—primarily because of constant clashes with the Centre. Issues like the slow progress on cleaning up the city's landfills or delays in expanding the Metro were often blamed on the AAP by the BJP. But now that the BJP is running both the national and Delhi governments — a setup they like to call the "double-engine" model — there's a growing sense that the time for blame games is over.



People expect results, especially from the Centre, which handles many projects through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Recently, Union Minister Manohar Lal sat down with well-known Delhiites, including business leaders, to hear what's bothering residents. Sources say the top concerns were better managing the overflowing landfill sites, making the land pooling policy a reality, and clearing up land acquisition issues—especially in northwest Delhi.

## Jharkhand DGP fate hangs in balance

The letter war between the Centre and the Jharkhand government over the appointment of incumbent DGP Anurag Gupta has caught the eyeballs of the country's police establishment. There's also the angle of a pending Supreme Court ruling in a case filed by BJP state unit chief Babulal Marandi in the matter. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs communicated to the Jharkhand Chief Secretary that DGP Gupta could not continue in office beyond April 30, 2025 – his date of superannuation. The Jharkhand government reportedly responded by saying Gupta was appointed to the post for two years under the 'appointments rules' formulated by the state. It also said that Jharkhand is not alone in doing so, as several other states have done the same. The Supreme Court will now decide Gupta's fate next week when it hears Babulal Marandi's case challenging the appointment. The MHA communique read: "Government of Jharkhand is directed to retire Shri Anurag Gupta, IPS, on 30.04.2025 from the post of the DGP (HoPF) Jharkhand, as continuing him in service beyond the age of superannuation violates Rule 16(1) of the All-India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules, 1958, which mandates retirement at the age of 60 for IPS officers." It also contended that Gupta's appointment process does not align with existing national rules or the Supreme Court judgment in a case filed by Prakash Singh over Police reforms.

## Ad hoc staff make Future dept 'inept'

By giving additional charge of the unique and innovative Department of Future to officers ad hoc, the Haryana government has made its' future imperfect'. Recently, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced the establishment of the "Department of Future", which many believe is the first of its kind in India. The department focuses on strategic foresight and long-term planning for the state's development along the lines of experiments done in Singapore, Finland, and the UAE. Earlier this week, the state government appointed the first set of officers to the department. A 2001-batch IAS officer, Amneet P Kumar, was made commissioner and secretary and 2011-batch IAS officer, Aditya Dahiya, became the Director.

## Jaishankar on a diplomatic sprint

Following the recent terror attack in Kashmir, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is busy with full-scale phone diplomacy, working the lines nonstop to rally international support. In a matter of days, he spoke with as many as 35 counterparts — the outreach included nine out of the ten non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Pakistan was the lone exception. Understandably, it is not a country he can engage with under the current circumstances. Among the five permanent members of the Security Council, Jaishankar connected with all except China, underlining the seriousness of India's efforts to build a strong global consensus. The momentum picked up on April 24, when Jaishankar spoke with France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot. Three days later, he connected with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. France and the UK are key permanent members of the UNSC and central to India's diplomatic strategy. April 29 stood out as an intense day of outreach. Over the past week, the foreign minister has also reached out to his counterparts from Kuwait, Egypt, Japan, and Saudi Arabia, further reinforcing India's diplomatic push across regions.

# China's Indo-Pacific role to figure in Rajnath's talks with Japanese counterpart

**MAYANK SINGH** @ New Delhi

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Gen Nakatani, on Monday to discuss ways to further deepen bilateral defence cooperation. The Ministry of Defence in a statement said, "Both sides will exchange views and ideas on the current regional and international security situation and discuss ways to further deepen the bilateral defence cooperation."

The two sides are also expected to deliberate on ways to boost India-Japan defence industrial cooperation. This will be the second meeting between the two within six months after their maiden interaction in November 2024 on the sidelines of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus at Lao PDR.

At that meeting, Singh and Gen Nakatani deliberated on a reciprocal provision of supply and services agreement for greater interoperability between their militaries.

India and Japan share a long-term friendship, which has further gained qualitative momentum after the elevation of this collaboration to Special Strategic & Global Partnership in 2014. Defence and security are important pillars of the ties between the two countries.

The MoD said, "Defence exchanges between India and Japan have gained strength in recent years due to the growing convergence on strategic matters. Its significance is increasing from the common outlook on issues of peace, security and stability of the Indo-Pacific Region." It is learnt that the two sides will also review the situation in the strategic waters of East and South China Seas where Beijing has been increasing its military posturing.

# Social justice to be key plank in BJP outreach campaign on caste census

**RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR** @ New Delhi

AFTER launching a strong political narrative around reforming the Waqf system, the BJP is now preparing a broad outreach campaign on its decision to implement a caste census. It plans to frame it as part of the upcoming national census to boost social justice for marginalised and underprivileged communities.

Party sources shared with this newspaper that the campaign will particularly target Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Dalits, aiming to counter the Congress's historical stance. BJP leaders and workers will tour OBC-dominated regions, promoting the government's commitment to social justice and data-driven policy-making.

The party's message will highlight that while Congress allegedly leveraged caste politics for electoral advantage, it failed to fulfil long-standing demands for a caste census. In contrast, the BJP plans toposition itself as the party that has taken concrete action on the issue.

Speaking to this newspaper, a senior party functionary said the party intends to expose the Congress's "hollow claim" on caste census, referencing the party's alleged opposition to caste-based reservations and its shelving of the Kaka Kalelkar report. "For Congress and other parties, the caste census has been a tool to garner electoral gains, while for us, it is to ensure social justice and equality through the caste enumeration." remarked a BJP leader.

**BJP hits out at Rahul's Lord Ram remarks**

The BJP on Sunday slammed Rahul Gandhi for calling Lord Ram a "mythological figure" and said the Congress leader had exposed his party's "anti-Hindu face". Amit Malviya lambasted the Congress and Rahul for the comments that he claimed ridiculed "beliefs of billions of Hindus" worldwide.

Home Minister Amit Shah recently criticised Congress and its allies for their position on the caste census. "The Congress and its allies opposed the caste census for decades while in power and played politics over it while in the opposition. The decision of the Modi government will empower all economically and socially backward classes, promote inclusion and pave new paths for the progress of the deprived," Shah stated.

A senior BJP leader, speaking on anonymity, said, "This is about acknowledging the realities of social structure and ensuring better targeting of welfare schemes. We want to show the people that under PM Modi's leadership, the party has taken bold steps for inclusive development by deciding to include caste enumeration in the next national census".

The BJP will remind the public how the UPA government under Manmohan Singh pledged a caste census in 2011 but only carried out the Socio-Economic Caste Census and how its leaders were reluctant about it.

With key states such as Bihar, UP, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal heading to Assembly polls and with national elections scheduled for 2029, the BJP plans to hone its appeal to crucial voter groups, particularly OBCs and Dalits, who could play a decisive role in the upcoming contests.

# CPM chalks out plan for expansion in states, to focus on LF goverance

**PARVEZ SULTAN** @ New Delhi

WITH new leadership in place, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has outlined a comprehensive programme to maintain its influence and expand its support base across various states.

Within a month, the party aims to engage all 10 lakh members through a series of meetings at both the state and district levels, and to implement key decisions taken at its recent party congress. The CPM also plans to actively highlight and remind the public of the reforms it introduced in the states where it governed for years. Meetings have already taken place in two states — Punjab and Kerala.

"We will have our task identified soon. We have prepared the note, which has been sent to the states, outlining how the key decisions of the Party Congress are to be communicated within the party. The message will reach the entire organisation by mid-June," said newly elected CPM general secretary M.A. Baby.

**Brittas takes charge as CPM party leader in RS**

The CPM has appointed John Brittas as the leader of its Rajya Sabha parliamentary party. Brittas, MP from Kerala and a noted media personality with a standing of more than three decades, Brittas is a member of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, the Committee on Public Undertakings and the Advisory Committee on the Dept of Information Technology.

"To expand, we have to work with the poorest of the poor. They should feel this red-flag party is theirs – and that through no other party can they hope to make progress."

As part of broader efforts to sustain political momentum, Baby stressed the need to consolidate the party's existing base. "We should ensure that whatever local influence we have, there should not be any further erosion."

In coming days, the CPM is expected to undertake campaigns to reconnect with people by showcasing its governance achievements, particularly its historic land reforms, such as the Kerala Agrarian Relations Bill and the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act.

He emphasized that the party now intends to reassert its historical role. "We need to let people know that it was the CPM that stood with them."

"We have to live among people. They should realise the CPM has always stood by them – and that we are the force that will champion their demands."

# AI temporarily terminates ops to Tel Aviv

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ New Delhi

AIR India on Sunday announced a temporary termination of all its operations to and from Tel Aviv till May 6. This follows the diversion of its New Delhi-Tel Aviv flight, carrying nearly 200 passengers, to Abu Dhabi due to a missile attack near the Tel Aviv airport.

Flight AI 139, a Boeing 787 aircraft, departed from New Delhi at 6.13 am on Sunday, and was slated to reach Ben Gurion International Airport. It was flying through Jordan and was just over an hour from reaching its destination when the diversion happened, reveals tracking data from flight tracking website Flightradar24.com. The flight will return to Delhi, said Air India in a statement.

An AI spokesperson said, "Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi."

# Non-starter: Centre's new legal shield for health workers after Kolkata rape

**KAVITA BAJELI-DATT** @ New Delhi

THE Centre had proposed a model state law to protect healthcare workers following the nationwide protests after the rape and murder of a trainee postgraduate student in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata. However, despite the government's proposal, the Union Home Ministry and the Union Health Ministry are yet to hold a meeting to discuss the modalities of the law.

This comes as the Centre has retracted from its earlier proposal of a separate central law to deal with offences against healthcare professionals in 2019. Kerala-based RTI activist Dr K V Babu, who has been pursuing the issue, said the Home Ministry has acknowledged in the RTI that the model state law was proposed last year.

However, since the proposal was made in September, he said that both the ministries seem clueless about its status.

Dr Babu said that following the RG Kar Medical College case, the government proposed drafting a model state law for the protection of healthcare workers (HCWs), as acknowledged by the Central Public Information Officer of the Home Ministry in the RTI reply.

"Now, it seems to be kept in cold storage. This is a deplorable state of affairs, and I hope the Home Ministry will pursue the model state law," he said.

Dr Babu said the Union Home Ministry conveyed to him on February 19 that after the first meeting of the National Task Force (NTF), it was "requested to prepare the draft model law for state/UTs for protection of healthcare professionals."

The RTI reply said, "The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on September 5 constituted a sub-group with DGMS (Navy) as the convener, under the NTF, for strengthening the legal framework across all states."

"No further information in this regard is available with the undersigned CPIO. Further, no communication has been issued by this ministry to the state home departments regarding the model state law," said the RTI.

The RTI reply added that the information regarding the copy of the model state law prepared by the committee and file noting may be available with the Ministry of Health, which is primarily concerned with the subject or the convener of the sub-group.

The Indian Medical Association, which has over four lakh doctors as members and resident doctor associations, have been demanding a separate central act to protect healthcare workers against repeated violence.

**MARITAL MESS**

A head constable of the Haryana Police has been booked on charges of deceitfully marrying a government school teacher, demanding dowry and subjecting her to physical abuse, police said on Sunday.

3 KILLED AS SPEEDING DUMPER HITS BIKE IN RAJASTHAN

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 36 | 28 | Mumbai | 32 | 27 |
| Bhopal | 33 | 23 | Panaji | 36 | 29 |
| Jaipur | 34 | 27 | Patna | 34 | 27 |
| Amritsar | 32 | 22 | Lucknow | 36 | 26 |
| Chennai | 34 | 30 | Port Blair | 29 | 27 |
| Kolkata | 34 | 26 | Imphal | 29 | 19 |
| Srinagar | 21 | 12 | Chandigarh | 33 | 23 |

■ 'Pahalgam retaliation has to be bigger than surgical strikes following Uri, Pulwama attacks' ■ Tourist towns, once abuzz, wear deserted look

# Military action need of the hour: Ex-J&K police chiefs

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

WITH India mulling options after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, two former J&K police chiefs have said military action now is a compulsion for India and that the action must be bigger than surgical or Balakote strikes to eliminate Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Former J&K police chief Kuldip Khoda told this newspaper that the Pahalgam attack is a continuation of the situation prevailing in J&K for the past 35 years. Khoda, who served as J&K police chief from 2007-2012, said Pakistan army and the ISI have all through been guiding, calibrating and training terrorists.

"It has been revealed not once but hundreds of times during interrogation of arrested terrorists. They had revealed that they were trained by regular and retired Pakistani army men and sometimes training would take place at regular army camps," he said.

According to Khoda, the Pahalgam attack was planned before the Pakistan army chief's controversial statement on two-nation theory. "Terrorists had done recce of Amusement Park in Pahalgam on April 15 and this was revealed by OGWs (over-ground workers), who were aware of terrorists' presence in Baisaran. Terrorists were in Baisaran from April 20. They had done recce in Betaab Valley and Aru Valley," he said, adding, "In Pahalgam attack, terrorists were using a satellite phone, which was linked to a Chinese satellite."

To act now against Pakistan, he said, is a compulsion for India. Eliminating every terrorist in J&K is not possible because they get supplemented through infiltrations from across the border, Khoda said.

"Sealing off the entire border is also impossible, just like ensuring zero infiltration," he said. "It has now become a compulsion for India to tackle the source of terrorists to ensure terrorism stops for good."

"The situation has reached a stage where it is quite apparent that despite the surgical strike, Balakote strike, things have not worked. It has to be much bigger this time to eliminate Pakistan sponsored terrorism for all times to come," Khoda said.

Another former J&K police chief S P Vaid said the Pahalgam attack was a security and intelligence failure. "If terrorists had carried out recce, why were we not able to detect it?" asked Vaid, who served as J&K police chief from 2016 to 2018.

"Military action should be carried out in such a way that it hurts Pakistan. The back of Pakistan army and ISI must be broken," he said. "We have to financially cripple them. India has also to diplomatically isolate Pakistan," added Vaid.

**Army vehicle plunges into gorge, 3 soldiers killed**

Three Army personnel were killed when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 500-metre deep gorge in J&K's Ramban district on Sunday, officials said. The Army truck, which was reduced to "a mangled heap of metal," was part of a convoy moving from Jammu to Srinagar along NH-44 when the accident occurred around 11.30 am.

# Had apprised HQ about marriage to Pak woman, says dismissed jawan

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A day after being dismissed from service for allegedly concealing his marriage with a Pakistani woman, CRPF jawan Munir Ahmed on Sunday said he married his cousin nearly a month after getting permission from the force's headquarters in May last year.

The dismissed jawan from J&K appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to provide him justice. Muneer, who had joined CRPF in 2017, said he would challenge his dismissal in the court of law.

"My dismissal from service is without any logic or reason. I joined CRPF to serve the nation and I want to continue serving my country," Muneer told the press.

"My marriage with Pakistan national Menal Khan, who is my cousin, was decided by our elders during my childhood. In 2022, I informed the CRPF officials of my intent to marry the Pakistan citizen and sought permission," he said.

Muneer said he was informed vide dated 30-4-2024 by the office of Director General, CRPF that those intending to marry a person of nationality other than Indian have to only intimate the authorities. He said he had completed the formalities in accordance with the established regulations.

# 'Not a single room is booked'; Gulmarg and Sonamarg hoteliers rue

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE April 22 Pahalgam terror attack has brought chaos upon far too many lives – even upon those who live to tell the tale. Hotels, resorts and homestays in Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahlagam, which, even few weeks ago, were abuzz with activity and fully occupied by tourist throngs, are now facing near-zero occupancy.

Aqib Chaya, president of the Gulmarg chapter of J&K Hoteliers Club said there is near zero occupancy at tourist accomodations in picturesque Gulmarg and Sonamarg; Pahalgam hotels – deserted.

There are around 1,800 hotel rooms in Gulmarg, most of them lying vacant since the terror attack. Hotelier Mukhtar Ahmed said his hotel has zero occupancy. "Not a single room in my hotel is booked or currently occupied," he said, lamenting the passing of the peak tourist season.

Aqib Chaya said the tourism industry has taken a devastating blow due to the Pahalgam attack and the subsequent escalation of border tension between India and Pakistan.

From hoteliers to houseboats, travel agents to 'shikarawallas' and handicraft artisans, 'pony-walas', tour guides and cab operators, all are staring at heavy losses as tourists have left the Valley with little hope for their return amid mass cancellation of bookings.

The tourism scene is no different in Sonamarg in central Kashmir, wearing the look of a ghost-town. "There is near-zero occupancy in hotels in Sonamarg. There is no tourist footfall nowadays," said hotelier and Sonamarg Hoteliers Association chief Farooq Hafiz.

He said before the Pahalgam terror attack, Sonamarg used to witness 90-95% occupancy with tourists thronging the place to regale the view of the Valley and snow-clad peaks.

Chaya said border tensions are a major cause now as people are apprehensive about a possibile outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan. "The Pahalgam terror attack was carried out to stop tourists, both national and foreign, from visiting Kashmir by creating fear. I think the country has to stand united and support Kashmir; send a message that 'Kashmir is part of India'," he said.

**JAIPUR DIARY**

RAJESH ASNANI

Our correspondent in Jaipur

rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

**Girija Vyas death brings Gehlot, Raje together**

Udaipur saw a rare political spectacle last Friday as top leaders gathered to pay tribute to veteran Congress leader Girija Vyas. But it wasn't just the condolences that grabbed headlines - it was the unexpected sight of arch-rivals Ashok Gehlot and Vasundhara Raje Scindia sharing the VIP lounge at the airport.The two former CMs, rarely seen together in public, stood side by side, prompting raised eyebrows and hushed chatter. Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra and LoP Tikaram Jully were also present, but the Gehlot-Raje frame stole the show. Clearly, the death of Girija Vyas, considered one of Rajasthan's most graceful leaders, managed to conjure a gracious togetherness rapidly disappearing in Indian politics.

**MLA caught red-handed with bribe money**

In a sensational first in Rajasthan politics, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Banswara MLA Jaikrishna Patel red-handed while accepting a bribe. The Bharat Adivasi Party leader allegedly demanded a whopping ₹2.5 crore to withdraw questions he raised in the Assembly about the mining department. The deal was reportedly finalised at his official residence in Jaipur. When a trap was laid, his gunman was caught collecting ₹20 lakh on his behalf. But here's the clincher: according to the ACB DG, Patel's hands turned colour when washed, confirming contact with the tainted cash. "We have video proof of him handling the money," ACB said.

**Katha storyteller's eventful Jaipur visit**

Storyteller Pradeep Mishra made waves in Jaipur after he abruptly halted his seven-day Katha on Day 3, blaming lack of support from the administration "unlike in Uttar Pradesh." A meeting with top officials, including the Collector and Police Commissioner, followed. Soon, Mishra released a video saying the katha would resume, and photos of him with CM Bhajanlal Sharma and MLA Balmukund Acharya surfaced, adding a political twist. Earlier, Mishra had sparked backlash by telling girls to avoid showing their navels, comparing it to a dying Tulsi plant. Days ago, he raised eyebrows by likening Amit Shah to Lord Shiva. Spiritual discourses to controversies - Mishra's Jaipur visit had it all.

# 16 middle-aged, elderly men forced into bonded labour rescued after years

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AT least 16 men from across the country, held captive and forced into bonded labour by "powerful individuals", have been freed by the authorities in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh.

The men – rescued from homes, agricultural farms, roadside dhabas, cowsheds and brick kilns – were kept in inhuman conditions and reportedly even given electric shocks by their captors, if they tried to flee or opposed working without wages. They are aged between 20 and 65 years and hail from multiple states, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, UP, Odisha and Maharashtra.

Some of these freed bonded labourers have become mentally unstable owing to torture and food deprivation and have been admitted at the Guna district hospital. Once their condition normalises, they will be sent to a shelter home and later reunited with their families based on inputs gathered from them, officials said.

Acting on inputs about men being forced to work as bonded labourers by powerful individuals, joint teams of district administration, labour department and district police, swung into action and freed the men from the clutches of their captors in villages in Chachoura area on Saturday.

The victims, most of whom were in torn garments, included Rama, a 60-year-old man from Gujarat who reportedly taught English and Mathematics at an Ahmedabad school until two decades ago. Some 20 years back he started walking from Shirdi to Mathura as a pilgrimage, but while passing through Chachoura area of Guna, he was abducted and forced to work in agricultural farms under inhuman conditions.

"Cases have been registered against 12 men under the BNS. Nine out of the 12 men accused of committing atrocities have been arrested, while hunt is on to nab the remaining three," Guna SP Ankit Soni said.

**JHARKHAND**

# 3 killed, 2 injured as govt hospital balcony collapses

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE roof of the corridor on the third floor of B-Block at the Medicine Ward of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College and Hospital (MGMMCH) in Jamshedpur collapsed, with debris from the crash splitting the roof of the second floor and descending to the first floor.

The incident claimed the life of the three patients kept in the medicine ward verandah, specified as the ward for abandoned patients, while several others were injured. The accident occurred at around 3 pm on Saturday, shortly after a seminar in the medicine ward hall.

A team of National Disaster Response Force personnel started the rescue operation at around 11 pm on Saturday. According to officials, it took them over 10 hours to recover the dead bodies from the debris.

DCP Jamshedpur Ananya Mittal confirmed the death of three people due to the roof collapse. The official said an inquiry committee comprising senior administrative officials and hospital authority has been set up and directed to submit a report within 48 hours.

# Joint manifesto, campaign in INDIA bloc's Bihar poll plan

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE INDIA bloc leaders held a third meeting in Patna on Sunday to formulate a strategy for better coordination among its six constituents at the state, block and district levels ahead of the Bihar assembly elections scheduled later this year.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, senior RJD leader and MP Manoj Jha exuded confidence that the opposition alliance would give shape to the "wind of change" sweeping the state ahead of the polls. "The coordination committee is working on a joint election manifesto and joint election campaign," he said.

It was the third meeting of the INDIA bloc comprising RJD, Congress, CPI-ML, CPI, CPI(M) and VIP. "The meeting was successful as leaders of all six allies unanimously decided to work together to strengthen coordination at grassroot levels," Jha told the media.

When asked about the Opposition's CM face, the RJD MP said people of Bihar are aware under whose leadership the upcoming elections would be contested. He refuted allegations that there was dispute over projecting Tejashwi Yadav as the CM face and said an announcement in this regard would be made at the right time.

"You are all aware who the chairman of the INDIA bloc coordination committee set up ahead of the Bihar assembly elections is," Jha said, hinting at Tejashwi Yadav, while asserting that the INDIA bloc will contest on all 243 seats.

The meeting was attended by Tejashwi, Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar, AICC Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru CPI-ML general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI president Lalan Choudhary, CPI secretary Ramnaresh Pandey and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani.

The poster put up outside the meeting venue and also on the dais, however, clearly suggested that the election would be contested under Tejashwi's leadership. "Announcement of Tejashwi as the Opposition's CM face is just a formality," a senior RJD leader said.

Jha said the coordination among INDIA bloc partners would be manifested in the state during the nationwide bandh called by trade union workers on May 20 against decisions of labour courts. "INDIA bloc parties will stand with them in solidarity," the MP said.

When asked about caste census, Jha said it remained the core demand of the INDIA bloc. "This issue was relevant earlier, and it remains important today. Until a caste census is conducted, our focus will remain on the subject. We will also keep watch on whether the data shared is accurate," he said.

# 'Gun salute' in memory of victims in Manipur prompts probe, FIR lodged

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Manipur Police has registered an FIR in connection with an alleged "gun salute" incident in Saikul area of Kangpokpi district.

The gun salute was allegedly given by a group of people in memory of those killed during the ethnic violence. Meiteis and Kuki-Zo tribals observed the second anniversary of the conflict on Saturday by organising various programmes.

The police in a statement said local leaders and elders were summoned to a police station in connection with the gun salute incident while raids had been conducted at different areas to arrest the miscreants.

Stating that five single barrel guns and camouflage uniforms have been seized, the police said the raids would continue to arrest the accused and seize other weapons. "The organisers of the programme will be dealt with as per law," the police statement stated.

Meanwhile, five organisations representing Meitei and Thadou communities collectively raised pitch for implementation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state.

The groups – Meitei Heritage Society, Delhi Manipuri Society, and Ningol United Progressive Initiative (representing Meiteis) and Thadou Inpi Manipur and Thadou Students' Association – met recently and resolved to call upon the Centre to expedite the implementation of NRC in Manipur.

The groups demanded the government urgently address the issue of influx of illegal immigrants saying, their presence threatens indigenous communities and national security.

"A thorough NRC process is fundamental to preserving the demographic integrity and restoring public confidence," they said in a joint statement.

Both sides reaffirmed to safeguard the integrity, unity and interests of Manipur as a multi-ethnic state, and recognise the contributions of the Thadou people for the protection of Manipur's interests and integrity.

The organisations appealed for deletion of the "unconstitutional and ambiguous category 'Any Kuki tribes' from the Scheduled Tribes list, while acknowledging that Thadou is a distinct community and does not fall under the category of "Kuki" or "Any Kuki tribes.

# AI to make India global creative powerhouse: Govt

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

WITH effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), India is poised to emerge as a Global Creative Powerhouse and hub, according to a media report presented by Union Minister of State L Murugan at the World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES).

Media and entertainment companies can not only increase their revenue by at least 10% but also reduce the input cost by 15% with the use of AI, says the report named 'A Studio Called India' prepared by Ernst & Young.

Officials said AI is expected to add value to the growth story of the media and entertainment sector. "The global media and entertainment (M&E) industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation, driven by the proliferation of AI. From content creation and curation to monetisation and distribution, AI is becoming an integral part of how stories are told and consumed," reads the report.

India, already a powerhouse in content production and IT services, is uniquely poised to lead this transformation. The convergence of its deep talent pool, rapidly maturing AI ecosystem, and proven capabilities in media production positions India as a strategic node in the global AI-M&E value chain.

The report also noted that OTT platforms have started using AI to offer hyper-targeted content recommendations based on regional preferences, affluence, geo-targeting and consumption patterns.

"On the monetisation front, AI is driving dynamic (and customized) ad insertions and optimizing pricing strategies through real-time viewer analytics. It is also being used in predictive content performance – OTT platforms use AI to model trailer effectiveness and anticipate drop-off rates. Further, broadcasters are experimenting with AI-driven dynamic creative optimization (DCO) to vary ads and promos in real-time depending on the viewer's persona and profile," it said.

It also delves into how AI has been used for automated dubbing. AI-based subtitling and voice cloning are enabling faster localisation across markets. "These services allow global studios to scale up multi-language releases while maintaining narrative fidelity," it reads.

The report also presents the country as a content-consuming nation and a studio to the world. It underscores India's strengths – linguistic diversity, cultural richness, and a technologically adept talent pool – which position the country to create narratives that transcend borders.

The country, it says, offers a 40% to 60% cost advantage in animation and VFX services, supported by a large, skilled workforce. The report also notes the increasing international appeal of Indian storytelling, with up to 25% views on Indian OTT content now originating from overseas.

**REPORT SAYS**

1. AI expected to add value to growth story of media and entertainment sector
2. OTT platforms using AI to offer targeted content recommendations based on consumption patterns
3. AI-based subtitling, voice cloning enabling faster localisation in markets

2 dead, 31 injured in Croatia bus crash

# Israel pledges to retaliate against Yemen's Houthis over airport attack

Prime Minister Netanyahu says it will not happen in one bang, but there will be many bangs

**TEL AVIV**

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday vowed a multi-phased response to Yemen's Houthis after the rebels struck the area of Israel's main airport, wounding six people and prompting several major airlines to suspend flights.

The Israeli military confirmed that the attack, which gouged a large crater in the perimeter of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, was launched from Yemen and had struck despite "several attempts... to intercept the missile".

In a video published on Telegram, Netanyahu said Israel had "acted against" the Iran-backed rebels in the past and "will act in the future".

"It will not happen in one bang, but there will be many bangs," the Israeli prime minister added, referring to the promised retaliation, without going into further detail.

Members of Israeli security services inspect a crater near a road outside Israel's Ben Gurion airport after a missile launched from Yemen struck the area | AFP

A police video showed officers standing on the edge of a deep hole in the ground with the control tower visible behind them. No damage was reported to airport infrastructure.The police reported a "missile impact" at Israel's main international gateway.

An AFP photographer said the missile hit near the parking lots of Terminal 3, the airport's largest. The crater was just hundreds of metres (yards) from the tarmac.

"You can see the area just behind us: a crater was formed here, several dozen metres wide and several dozen metres deep," central Israel's police chief, Yair Hezroni, said in the video.

The rebels said their forces "carried out a military operation targeting Ben Gurion airport" with a "hypersonic ballistic missile". Defence Minister Israel Katz threatened a forceful response, saying: "Anyone who hits us, we will hit them seven times stronger." Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad later hailed the attack on the airport. *AFP*

**ASIA MATTERS**

## FLIGHT MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING

A Thai Airways flight bound for Frankfurt made an emergency landing at Suvarnabhumi Airport on Sunday due to a technical issue. The Boeing 777-300ER, departing from Bangkok at 12.25 pm, discharged fuel after takeoff and circled over Samut Sakhon. Eyewitnesses captured footage of the plane circling and discharging fuel. It returned to Suvarnabhumi at 2.12 pm after the main gear cover failed to close properly. The plane was parked for maintenance and later departed at 3.20 pm, rescheduled to arrive in Frankfurt at 9.56 pm.

## FIRE GUTS 20 CARS, 3 BIKES IN PUCHONG

A fire broke out at a workshop on the Bukit Jalil Highway in Puchong Jaya, destroying 20 cars and three motorcycles. Firefighters arrived at 11:04 am and quickly extinguished the blaze, which destroyed about 70% of the workshop structure. No casualties were reported, and the exact cause of the fire is still under investigation.

# Hope there will be no need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine: Putin

**MOSCOW**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has said that the need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine had not arisen and that he hopes it will not.

In comments aired Sunday in a film by Russian state television about his quarter of a century in power, Putin said Russia has the strength and the means to bring the conflict in Ukraine to a "logical conclusion." Responding to a question about Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory, Putin said: "There has been no need to use those (nuclear) weapons ... and I hope they will not be required." "We have enough strength and means to bring what was started in 2022 to a logical conclusion with the outcome Russia requires," he said. Putin signed a revamped version of Russia's nuclear doctrine in November 2024, spelling out the circumstances that allow him to use Moscow's atomic arsenal, the world's largest. That version lowered the bar, giving him that option in response to even a conventional attack backed by a nuclear power.

In the film, Putin also said Russia did not launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine — what he called a "special military operation" — in 2014, when it illegally annexed Crimea, because it was "practically unrealistic."

In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following a Russian attack in Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

"The country was not ready for such a frontal confrontation with the entire collective West," he said. He claimed also that Russia "sincerely sought to solve the problem of Donbas by peaceful means."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday, in comments made public Saturday, that Moscow's announcement of a 72-hour ceasefire in Ukraine to mark Victory Day in World War II is merely an attempt to create a "soft atmosphere" ahead of Russia's annual celebrations. Zelenskyy instead renewed calls for a more substantial 30-day pause in hostilities, as the US had initially proposed. He said the proposed ceasefire could start anytime as a meaningful step toward ending the war. *AP*


**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are informed that my client Mrs. K.M. Manjula, Aged about 52 years, Residing at Classic Colony Bhaglapete, Bommasandra, Anekal, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru. She is the absolute owner of the property bearing Site No. 13, Serial No. 808, formed in Converted land bearing Sy.No.3, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 49 Feet, in all measuring 1470 Square Feet., and bounded on:

East by : Site bearing No. 12,
West by : Site bearing No. 14,
North by : 25 feet Road,
South by : Private Property.

My Client had lost the Release deed during the transit while visiting the Bank loan purpose. Inspite of several efforts the Original Release deed bearing document No. ABL-1-00155/2012-13 Dated 11.04.2012, C.D. No. ABLD101 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Attibele, Anekal Taluk Bangalore has not found and she lodged the police complaint dated 29.04.2025, Petition No. 819/2144/2025. if anyone found the same kindly contact the below address.

Now she is selling the aforesaid property, if any Person/Firm/institution/Company having any claim or right in respect of the said property by way of sale agreement, Mortgage, lease, lien, gift possession, legal heirs partners or any kind of encumbrance whomsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to under signed within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share of Claim, If any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived, and not binding on our clients. And if anyone found the same kindly contact the below address.

**PREMA B DUBALE**
RBK Legal, Advocate & Solicitors
Sampoorna Chambers, 4th Floor, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to notify the general public that we, **M/s. Banyan Tree Marigold Homes,** have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated 26.11.2024 with MR Landfirm Private Limited, agreement holder in respect of Schedule Property (*defined below*), for developing converted property bearing Survey No.118/4 measuring 01 Acre 15 Guntas, Property No.943/670/118/4, within the limits of Arekere Gram Panchayath, E-Khatha No.15020020250110 11030, situated at Suradhenupura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, which is morefully described in the schedule mentioned hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property".

Any person having any right, claim, title, interest in the Schedule Property or having any objection to the development must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof **within 15 days** of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that no person has any objection for the development of the Schedule Property.

**SCHEDULE**
*(description of the Schedule Property)*

All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped converted land bearing Survey No.118/4 measuring 01 Acre 15 Guntas, Property No.943/670/118/4, within the limits of Arekere Gram Panchayath, E-Khatha No.150200202501101030, converted from agricultural to non-agricultural purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 12.02.2009, bearing No. ALN(NAH): DR:54/2008-09, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at Suradhenupura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, and bounded on:**East by:** Property bearing Survey No.118/5 and Railway Tracks; **West by:**Property bearing Survey No.118/3;**North by:** Road; **South by:** Property bearing Survey No.117.

Dt:02-05-2025
**Banyan Tree Marigold Homes,** Bangalore
a partnership firm, having its registered firm "Cove", 3rd Floor, Raheja Plaza, Richmond Road, Bangalore - 560 025 , Phone No. 9741245451

QuoteExpress THE ONLY CONSTANT IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CHANGE › MITCHELL KAPOR

**IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE**
**C.Misc. No. 1869/2025**

**BETWEEN: MADHUSHREE .M,** W/o Late. Thyagaraj, aged about 34 years, R/at No.5/1, 4th Main Road, Kasthuribanagar, Mysore Road Tollgate, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560026 ...**PETITIONER**
**AND: THE COMMISSIONER, REGISTRAR OF BIRTH AND DEATHS,** B.B.M.P. BENGALURU ...**RESPONDENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above petition seeking direction to The BBMP Registrar of Birth and Death, at Bengaluru, to Register the date of death of the husband of the petitioner, the deceased herein named as **THYAGARAJ,** S/o KALAPPA, as he was died on 02/05/2021 at 1st Main, 7th Cross, Kalyanagar, Sanjeevininagar, Moodalapalya, K.V.V. School, Bengaluru- 560072.

Any person interested and having any objection in this matter, may appear before the 13th Addl Chief Judicial Magistrate Court at Bengaluru, at **11.00 AM** on **19-05-2025** to which date the case is posted for hearing,

Given under my hand and seal the Court on this 02-05-2025.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, XIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Advocate for Petitioner: **S. Kalavathi**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the public that I, Deepak Ramineedi, S/O Radhakrishna, residing at Epsilon Residential Villas, Villa No. D6, Yamalur Main Road, Yamalur, Bengaluru 560 037, have lost two original land documents bearing the following numbers:

**1. 9751/2017 registered on 16-12-2017.**
**2. 3606/2018 registered on 17-04-2018.**

These documents were registered at the Joint Registrar Office in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

On September 1, 2023, while traveling from my home in Yamalur to deposit these documents in my locker at HDFC Bank, Marathahalli branch, Bangalore, I lost them en route. Despite my vigorous efforts to trace the aforementioned documents, I have been unsuccessful. Hence, this public notice.

I kindly request the general public that if anyone finds or has traced the said two **"Original title Deeds"**. Please return them to the address mentioned above.

A complaint has been lodged at the Marathahalli Police Station, Bangalore, on May 1, 2025. A suitable reward will be provided to the person or persons who return the documents to me.

**Deepak Ramineedi**
Mobile : +91 99720 61331

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified to the general public that our client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owner **M/s. R.K. Realty Ventures,** a Partnership Firm having its registered office at No.15, Ground Floor, R.K. Classic, 1st Main, MLA Layout, Lottegollahalli, RMV 2nd State, Bengaluru-560 094, represented by its Managing Partner Sri. B.R.Chandrashekar. The owner represents that they are the absolute owner in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and same is free from all kind of encumbrances, suits and proceedings under any kind of statute. If the general public or anyone have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the supporting documents with the undersigned within the period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

**ALL THAT PIECE PARCEL** of residential building bearing No. 134, BBMP Katha No.586/134 presently having EPID No. 1805468307 situated in the layout formed by the Indian Institute of Science Employees House building Co-operative Society Limited, **"Bharath Ratna JRD Tata Nagara"** of Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore measuring East to West 40 ft. and North to South 60 ft., totally measuring **2400 Sq. Ft.,** consisting of Stilt, Ground and 3 Upper Floors, Ward No. 8-Byatarayanapura, carved out of various Sy. Nos. Kodigehalli Village and bounded on:-

**East by** : **Site bearing No.135;**
**West by** : **Site bearing No.133;**
**North by** : **Site bearing No.106 & 105;**
**South by** : **Road.**

Sd/-
**VIJAYA H.R.,**
**Advocate**
**VSR LEGAL**
Advocates & Legal Consultants,
No.01, **"SOWRABHA",** 2nd Main Road,
Kalyana Nagar, Bangalore- 560072.
Phone : 9845954657 / 9900068017.

e-Tender (2nd call) for procurement of 1,00,000 doses of frozen semen (French mini 0.25 ml / dose) in phase manner during the year 2025-26.

The details of terms & condition of e-Tender (e-NIT) is available in the official websites of **http://tripuratenders.gov.in** / **www.eprocure.gov.in** / **www.ardd.tripura.gov.in** and also in the news portal of **www.tripurainfo.com**

**Chief Executive Officer**
**Tripura Livestock Development Agency**
ICA/C/403/25 **Astabal, Agartala**

**TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION**
**Head Office, CMRL Admin Building, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107**
**CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157**

**SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE**

**No.: SP14/038844/2024** **Dated: 03.05.2025**

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic short tender for the **"Supply of 2,300 MTs. of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRKs) with content of 3 micro nutrients per month and 27,600 MTs per annum to Rice Mills located in all Districts of Tamil Nadu for production of Fortified Rice intended for distribution under Public Distribution System in all Districts of Tamil Nadu for a period of 12 Months."**

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed, downloaded and uploaded through **https://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app from 05.05.2025 to 20.05.2025.**

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III

Last Date for Online Submission : **20.05.2025 up to 11:00 A.M**
Tender Opening Date and Time : **21.05.2025 at 11:30 A.M**

DIPR/1866/Tender/2025 **Managing Director**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)**
**PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)**
**[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5193, 5093, 5086, Fax: (080)-28392310]**

**BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)**

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:

**Name of the work : NIT NO & Date:** Proposed DG stack foundation for supply, installation, Testing, commissioning of 1 No of 500kVA DG for HASS and BAFFLE Test Facility and SITC of 3 Nos DG set for replacing old DG sets at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 . NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-01, Dtd: 28.04.2025 ; **Estimated cost put to tender in 15.28Lakhs ; EMD Rs : 30,569/- ; Period of Completion in months :** 04 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 29.04.2025; **Closing Date :** 13.05.2025

**Name of the work ; NIT NO & Date :** Rate contract for providing Earthing at LEOS Campuses for a period of one year, Peenya, Bangalore-58. NIET No: LEOS/CMG/ EMN-01/2025-26, Dtd: 29.04.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in 8.63Lakhs ; EMD Rs : 17,270/- ; Period of Completion in months :** 12 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 02.05.2025; **Closing Date :** 20.05.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

**-Sd-GROUP DIRECTOR**
**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)**
**URSC, BANGALORE.**

**UJVN LTD.**
**H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006**
**Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763508**
**CIN No.:U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website.: www.ujvnl.com**

Letter No.316 **E- Tender Notice** Dated 03.05.2025

Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal Power Station, Kulhal, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

Tender No. e- 01/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/KPS/2025-26 " Extension of Bay at 132kV switchyard at Kulhal Power station "
Estimated cost : Rs 2,46,00,835/- GST Extra
Date and time of availability of bid document on website: 06/05/2025 11:00 Hrs
Last date and time for submission of bid document on website: 28/05//2025 15:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal" http://uktenders.gov.in". **Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102
Ph: 0820 - 2525040 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

**No: SE(E)/UDP/EE(O)/AEE(C)/2025-26/217-21** **Date: 08.04.2025**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

On behalf of Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Udupi invites tenders from eligible Bidders/Agencies for the following works in Udupi Circle.

| Sl.No | Name of Work | Indent No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Repairs and maintenance works to EB - 4, 5, 6 & 7 Quarters at Kunjibettu Colony, Udupi Division. | MESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT256/CALL-2 |

The bids will be received through Electronic (E-tendering) mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07.05.2025.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, UDUPI**

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/136/25-26 dt: 03.05.2025

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

**PERINTHALMANNA MUNICIPALITY**
Pin code- 679322
GSTIN: 32AAALS3064Q3ZL
Phone No. : 04933 - 227363
https://perinthalmannamunicipality.lsgkerala.gov.in
perinthalmannamunicipality@yahoo.co.in

No. 74962-2024 Dated: 03/05/2024

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

As per the resolution number 23/1 of the Perinthalmanna Municipal Council dated 26.03.2025, the 1 acre 35 cents land included in survey numbers 22/2, 22/3, 22/6, 22/7, 23/2 near Manath Mangalam Bypass under the jurisdiction of the Municipality and the Interested persons/ institutions are invited to submit their expressions of interest for the construction, operation and handover of a Food and Fun Park for a period of 25 years on DBOT model using a building measuring 12000 sq ft and two access roads measuring 5.5 m wide and 76.5 m long, 5.5 m wide and 77.5 m long. The last date for submission of interest is 26th May 2025, 4 pm. The available tenders will be opened and inspected on 27.05.2025, 11 AM. For more information, please visit the portal www.tender.lsgkerala.gov.in or contact the Municipal Engineering Department.

**Sd/- Secretary**
**Perinthalmanna Municipality**

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**FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE**

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Thursday 15-05-2025 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

**Anekal** 8884114481 **FEDGL0088**0006387 **Arakalgud** 9964260350 **FEDGL0036**0014083, 0014086, 0014095, 0014098, 0014105, 0014124, 0014126, 0014132, 0014139, 0014149, 0014154, 0014155 **Arasikere** 9620276545 **FEDGL0414**0005201, 0006641 **B H Road** 8904344610 **FEDGL0103**0017219, 0017276, 0017337 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 8861797982 **FEDGL0011**0012728 **BELGAUM** 9538166084 **FEDGL0136**0007454, 0007490 **BELUR** 9483265538 **FEDGL0159**0012109, 0012112, 0012113, 0012132 **BOMMANAHALLI** 8555046900 **FEDGL0014**0008387 **BTM LAYOUT** 9980764782 **FEDGL0003**0007309, 0007310 **BYADGI** 8970590276 **FEDGL0051**0013116, 0013169, 0013179, 0013196, 0013197 **Caltex Circle** 9900291944 **FEDGL0102**0015223, 0015238 **Car Street Bellary** 9535205038 **FEDGL0092**0005201 **CHANNAPATNA** 9743172738 **FEDGL0176**0020901, 0021920 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 9739489738 **FEDGL0158**0024160, 0024167, 0024168 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 9164264697 **FEDGL0021**0008874 **DAVANGERE** 8792107472 **FEDGL0229**0010384, 0011341 **dharwad** 8152913405 **FEDGL0233**0006969, 0006973, 0006995, 0006997, 0007000 **Gubbi** 7760812077 **FEDGL0046**0017157, 0017204, 0017237, 0017254, 0017255, 0017276, 0017332 **Gundalpete**9916977750 **FEDGL0383**0005222, 0005536, 0005631 **H D Kote** 8147199881 **FEDGL0058**0011149, 0011207 **Hagaribommanhalli** 9481555371 **FEDGL0100**0012187, 0012207, 0012209, 0012227, 0012259, 0012682 **HANSUR** 7760995688 **FEDGL0162**0018275, 0018300, 0018304 **Harappanahalli** 9945998329 **FEDGL0104**0011283 **HARIHAR** 8147533256 **FEDGL0022**0015544, 0015545, 0015562, 0015585 **HASSAN MARKET** 8970429398 **FEDGL0157**0015781, 0015872, 0015882, 0015888 **HAVERI** 8880914476 **FEDGL0181**0012222 **HENNUR** 8123668156 **FEDGL0015**0005464 **Holenarsipura** 9591033235 **FEDGL0059**0024309, 0024358, 0024841, 0026556 **HOSA ROAD** 8050825082 **FEDGL0002**0015976 **Hosadurga** 8105000953 **FEDGL0412**0006504, 0006511, 0006513, 0006539, 0006547 **Hospet** 9743956995 **FEDGL0099**0009590, 0009619 **FEDBD0099**0000152 **HULIYAR** 9353636036 **FEDGL0534**0000325 **K R NAGAR** 9901175713 **FEDGL0161**0013854 **K R PURAM** 8553393114 **FEDGL0012**0014396 **K R ROAD** 7829541516 **FEDGL0037**0007048 **FEDDS0037**0000090 **Kadur** 9844224685 **FEDGL0487**0004459, 0004476, 0004479, 0004515 **Kampli** 6361077968 **FEDGL0095**0009616, 0009617 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 8792207075 **FEDGL0155**0008946 **Kudligi** 7760491423 **FEDGL0404**0006987, 0007005, 0007008, 0007012, 0007013, 0007014, 0007017, 0007019, 0007022, 0007032, 0007041, 0007046, 0007060, 0007701, 0009247, 0009248, 0009266 **Kunigal** 9738833176 **FEDGL0121**0011658, 0012296 **Madhugiri** 9972981737 **FEDGL0393**0009193, 0009201, 0009235, 0009285 **Malavalli** 9742509190 **FEDGL0365**0008006, 0008034 **Malebennur** 8884276416 **FEDGL0062**0013149 **FEDBD0062**0000023 **MANDIMOHALLA** 9945657838 **FEDGL0174**0011154 **MANDYA** 8453194687 **FEDGL0163**0009280, 0009539 **Mundargi** 9886453768 **FEDGL0064**0010573 **NANJANGODE** 9611312789 **FEDGL0160**0016041, 0016078, 0016079, 0016085, 0016088, 0016096, 0016106, 0016107, 0016108, 0016114, 0016120 **Nelamangala** 9108850892 **FEDGL0392**0003815 **Pavagada** 9448386998 **FEDGL0377**0010810, 0010812, 0010815, 0010873, 0010888, 0010909, 0010916, 0010948, 0011686 **Periapatna** 9449955714 **FEDGL0044**0010787, 0011286 **RAJAJI NAGAR** 7892077716 **FEDGL0004**0005300 **FEDDS0004**0000364 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 9379513202 **FEDGL0035**0003101 **RAMANAGARA** 8197884697 **FEDGL0180**0025777, 0025786, 0025818, 0025831, 0026391, 0026452, 0027595 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 9620136356 **FEDGL0173**0008172 **RANEBENNUR** 8904013982 **FEDGL0232**0012355, 0012365, 0012385 **SHIMOGA** 9513242321 **FEDGL0183**0012413, 0012421, 0012430 **Sindhanur** 8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0004093, 0004110, 0004125 **Sira** 9686864110 **FEDGL0376**0011371, 0011409, 0014404, 0014440 **SIRSI** 9945929333 **FEDGL0193**0008277, 0008301, 0008316, 0008322 **SULTHANPLYA** 9353708159 **FEDGL0013**0008082 **Tarikere** 9945524645 **FEDGL0415**0004355 **Tiptur** 9739894909 **FEDGL0047**0011480, 0012850 **Turuvekere** 9964345178 **FEDGL0386**0006833, 0006931, 0007431 **Yeshwantpur** 9844851400 **FEDGL0034**0006679

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 14-05-2025 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

**Dated : 05-05-2025** **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
**Place : Karnataka** **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

**ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ**
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಶಾಖೆ, ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570017.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 9449598585 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: gmhrd@cescmysore.org ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.cescmysore.org

ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ: ಸೆಸ್ಕ್/ಆ&ಮಾಸಂ/02/ಕಿ.ಪ.ನೇ-1/ಇ-167283/2025-26/ಸಿವೈಎಸ್-351 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.05.2025

**ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ**

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.10.2024 ರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ, ಕಿರಿಯ ಪವರ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಸಹನ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ 1:5 ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ Shortlist ಆಗಿರುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕಟ್-ಆಫ್ (Cut-Off) ಅಂಕಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ **https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಹನ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.05.2025** ರಿಂದ **16.05.2025 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಚಾಮುಂಡಿ ವಿಹಾರ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್ ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸಹನ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಕರೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.05.2025**ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು(ಆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾ.ಸಂ)
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/131/2025-26

**SBI State Bank Of India**
**Stressed Assets Recovery Branch - II**
No.44, 1st Floor, Eldams Road, Teynampet, Chennai -600018. Ph: 044-24340392.
Email: sbi.70674@sbi.co.in
Contact Branch : 9498652620

Authorised Offical's Details Name: Smt. Meenakumari.P - Mobile No: 9790960729 Land Line No: 044-24338112

Contact Person: City Case Officer - Name: Smt M Sathiavanimuthu, Deputy Manager, Mobile No. 9884474857

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (See Provisio to Rule 8 (6) )**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **11.06.2025** for recovery of **Rs.30,74,796/- (Rupees Thirty Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Six only)** as on **02.05.2025** with future interest, costs, etc., due to the State Bank of India, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch II, Chennai, from **Mrs Khairunisa.**

**Borrower Name & Address: Applicant: Mrs. Khairunnisa,** No.37. 2nd Cross, Gangothri Road Dead End, Near Government College, K.R.Puram, Bangalore North. Bangalore - 560036. **Co-Applicant: Mr. Kushtara Pasha,** No.37, 2nd Cross, Gangothri Road Dead End, Near Government College, K.R.Puram, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560036

**Demand Notice U/s 13(2) issued on 06/09/2020; Possession Notice u/s 13(4) issued on 02/12/2020**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

**SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY: Schedule A:** All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 12/1. Old KhathaNo.6/1, BBMP 'B* Khatha SI.324 Situated at 2nd Cross, Gangothri Layout, Krishnarajapura, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Previously comes under K.R.Puram CMC Limits, Bangalore, **Measuring :** East to West: 40 Feet, North to South: 15 Feet, Totally measuring 600 Sq ft & Built-up Area 1596 sq.ft. **Bounded as follows:** East : Road, West : Property belongs to Ramachandrappa, North : Channel, South :Site No.I2.

**RESERVE PRICE** ₹ 42,67,000/- **EMD** ₹ 4,26,700/- **BID INCREMENT AMOUNT** ₹ 25,000/-

**Encumbrances known to the Bank, if any : NIL**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION** **11.06.2025** 11.00 am to 4.00 pm with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each.

**DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: Date: 05.06.2025; Time :10.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website **www.bank.sbi & https://baanknet.com**

**Date : 02.05.2025** **Authorized Officer,**
**Place : Chennai** **State Bank of India, SARB-II, Chennai**

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₹4,223 CR have been infused by foreign investors in the equity market in April.

# Rent-a-bank-account scam: How it works?

Scammers are now targeting social media users, who once trapped can lose control of bank accounts

**BENN KOCHUVEEDAN** @ Mumbai

FINANCIAL fraudsters/cyber criminals are donning a new cap now, as regulators and law enforcers have been able to control most of their traditionally proven modes of frauds such as phishing and stealing pin numbers/passwords, among other tricks.

In what is called a rent-a-bank-account scam, the new kid in the fraudsters' playbook, which is to allow a third party to access and use your bank account.

Gullible people are lured with promises of a few lakhs or a few thousands of rupees or a particular percentage of commission that ranges from 1-5% of the money being transacted through your account, and then are left to deal with criminal cases and large financial claims. Some even go to the extent of making you deposit money in your account and then withdraw that money and vanish.

Fraudsters may also offer to cover your travel and lodging expenses if the deal involves you to withdraw money and deliver it physically. Once rented out, scamsters use your account as an underground financial conduit for illegal activities, particularly involving stock price manipulation, online gaming, untraceable investment schemes and money laundering.

Scammers, who are on the constant lookout for newer ways to have their way, are now targeting social media users on the pretext of enrolling them for marketing purposes, with the promise of quick cash. If trapped, users can lose control of their bank and social media accounts and land

in legal troubles.

The scam is spreading through personal referrals and social media platforms such as Telegram, where people are lured with the promises of quick cash payouts.

In exchange, they are asked to share bank login credentials and phone numbers linked to the accounts. Once given, the account holder becomes vulnerable to criminal charges, financial fraud, and regulatory scrutiny, as the account is then used for dubious transactions beyond their knowledge. Fraudsters typically look for current accounts with cash-management products or cash management services and/or merchant QR codes which make bulk payments easier by allowing one-click payments to multiple accounts.

Many attribute this new scam to the rise of the influencer economy which has created a perception about social media as a money-making machine.

However, it has to be noted that renting social media and bank accounts is a somewhat legitimate marketing practice in some countries and regions such as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and even Singapore, which allow non-residents to have bank accounts which can be used for certain marketing activities.

These cyber criminals are using mostly Linkedin or Telegram to reach out to their prospective targets offering payments.

Typically these criminals lure you to share your social media account credentials. Once they know that you are hooked in, they persuade you to share your bank account details under the pretext of payout.

Once access is granted, fraudsters use your account to transfer illicit funds, often masked as proceeds from online gaming or trading activities.

In reality, you have no visibility into the nature of these funds, leaving you exposed to serious regulatory and law enforcement action.

IN CONVERSATION

**RAJESH GANESAN**
*CEO, ManageEngine*

# 'Will remain pvt to retain freedom from shareholder pressure'

MANAGEENGINE, an IT product company from the stable of Zoho Corporation, aspires to be a $10 billion technology company in five years while remaining focused on innovation and R&D. Its CEO **Rajesh Ganesan** spoke to **Dipak Mondal** on AI, innovation and growth targets. An excerpt:

**How is ManageEngine different from IT services firms like Infosys or TCS?**
ManageEngine is a product company (like Microsoft or Google), building tools for businesses to manage IT operations, cybersecurity, and endpoints. Services firms like Infosys focus on custom solutions or integrating third-party tools. ManageEngine's products are used directly by enterprises or through partners (e.g., banks use its endpoint security agent to protect devices).

**What is your approach to R&D?**
Zoho invests heavily in R&D, building proprietary frameworks (e.g., programming language Deluge) and infrastructure (self-run global data centers). We prioritise long-term bets over short-term gains, with R&D teams in tier-3 Indian cities (eg, Tenkasi and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu) to tap local talent and foster regional ecosystems. Failed products are common, but successes like Zoho CRM and ManageEngine's IT tools drive growth.

**How is AI impacting your business?**
AI augments workflows (e.g, generating code snippets, customer support responses) but doesn't replace jobs. Zoho uses AI cautiously, avoiding sensitive data exposure.
For instance, AI-generated videos of executives save time but lack originality for complex tasks. The focus remains on human-AI collaboration, not workforce reduction. Zoho has survived multiple crises (eg, the 2001 dot-com crash, 2008 financial crisis) by diversifying products and markets. For example, after telecom infrastructure demand collapsed in 2001, Zoho pivoted to serve smaller businesses with ManageEngine. We plan for extremes: best-case growth (40% YoY) and worst-case scenarios (zero revenue), ensuring resilience without layoffs.

**Zoho's success stems from embracing failure. To spur innovation, India needs ecosystems that support long-term R&D and retain market.**

**What's your view on India's start-up ecosystem's focus mainly on tried and tested business models and a risk aversion towards tech innovation?**
The problem is, we don't accept failure. That's what holds us back. We tend to copy what appears to be most successful. You need to take a bold, deep dive and say, "I want to do this because I believe in it"—while also knowing it might fail. You can't expect the government to drive this change alone. It has to come from the broader ecosystem—private players, society at large.

Zoho's success stems from embracing failure (for example, shutting down underperforming products). To spur innovation, India needs ecosystems that support long-term R&D and accept risk. Zoho invests in start-ups (e.g., SignalChip for semiconductors, V-Titan for medical devices) and runs subsidiaries in non-IT sectors (power tools).

**Do you have plans to go public?**
No. We intend to remain private to retain freedom from shareholder pressures. The philosophy centres on prioritising customers and employees over quarterly financial targets. The company maintains a financial buffer to survive three years without revenue while protecting employee jobs and salaries.

**What are ManageEngine's growth plans?**
We expect to reach $ 1billion by next year. We have a target of achieving $10 billion in the next five years because the potential is so high. We are already present in 30 locations in North America, Europe, and Latin America. We plan to go to newer markets, invest in new ways of doing business, and new models. We plan to enhance partnerships, localise solutions, and build trust as a global Indian brand.

MONEY-WISE

# FILL THE INCOME–EXPENDITURE GAP

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**PV SUBRAMANYAM**
*writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'*

WHETHER there will be an income-expenditure gap in retirement depends on several factors, including your current income, lifestyle, savings, investments, inflation, and post-retirement expenses. This gap is a concern due to rising life expectancy, increasing healthcare costs, and no social security. When you are about 10 years away from retirement ask yourself these questions:

- How much is your monthly expenses on electricity, society charges, food, travel, fuel, salaries to cook, servants, etc.,
- How much do you really spend on buying food, eating out, etc.
- Expenses on special occasions -marriage of siblings, children of siblings, other events, festivals, etc.
- Vacations and other annual expenses – insurance, etc.

**Income Sources in Retirement:**
- Pension: Limited to government or organised sector employees
- Investments: Returns from fixed deposits, mutual funds, dividends, or rental income.
- Savings: Withdrawals from savings accounts, PPF, NPS.
- Other: Part-time work, family support, or annuity plans.
- Most Indians rely on personal savings or family support.

**Expenditure in Retirement:**
- Regular Expenses: Food, utilities, rent/housing maintenance.
- Healthcare: Costs rise with age (e.g., medicines, hospitalisation, insurance).
- Lifestyle: Travel, hobbies, or supporting family.
- Inflation: In India, inflation averages 5-7% annually, eroding purchasing power over 20 years of retirement.

**The Gap:**
- If your post-retirement income (pension + investment returns) is less than your expenses, a gap emerges.
- Example: A retiree with a monthly expense of ₹50,000 but only ₹30,000 from pension and investments faces a ₹20,000 monthly gap.
- Factors like medical emergencies or unexpected expenses widen this gap.

**How to fill the Income-Expenditure gap**
To bridge this gap, you need a combination of savings, investments, and income-generating strategies. First of course, retire as late as possible. If you retire at 65 years instead of retiring at 60, it means you will need say 25x your expenses instead of 35x if you retire at 60.

**Build a Retirement Corpus:**
- Estimate Needs: Assume you need ₹50,000/month (in today's value) for 35 years post-retirement at age 60, with 6% inflation. Using the 4% safe withdrawal rule, you'd need a corpus of about ₹3 crore.
- Start Early: Invest in long-term instruments like Equity MFs, NPS for higher returns.
- Rental Income: Invest in real estate for steady rental yields.
- Dividend Stocks/MFs: Invest in high-dividend stocks/ MFs.

**Optimise for Inflation and Taxes:**
- Equity Investments: Allocate 50-60% of your portfolio to equity mutual funds or stocks for inflation-beating returns.
- Tax-Free Instruments: Use Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS) or tax-free bonds for stable, tax-efficient income.

MONEY MATTERS

# RISK IS RELATIVE, BUT CAUTION IS UNIVERSAL

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

**RAJAS KELKAR**
*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

SELL in May and go away' is an old stock market adage. Studies over five decades on the US S&P 500, a benchmark index of top 500 American companies, show that returns were an average of 4% lower between May and October than between November and April in a year. That is primarily a case applicable to US markets due to local factors. This stock market strategy also affected financial markets that were dependent on global capital flows.

Over the past two years, India's stock markets have been less dependent on foreign capital flows as significant money has moved into equities from domestic retail and institutional investors. Domestic investors are bound to buy only Indian equities. As a result, their steady direct and indirect monthly flows put a cushion at the bottom. Even if foreigners sell, locals will not. They may not buy more equity only if valuations are rich. Now, the most significant risk to Indian markets is valuation. Both foreign and domestic investors think Indian markets are richly valued compared to their profit growth prospects.

**Risk is relative**

That brings us to the issue of risk in the market. The stock market is driven by greed and fear. Right now, despite rich valuations, foreigners are buying more Indian equities. They are trying to find quality companies that still offer good entry points. While valuation as a risk is a relative term, it is probably the consideration. India is probably the least affected country by the Trump trade wars. In the latest World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund, a global lending agency, has marginally cut India's growth rate for 2025-26. India remains the fastest-growing large economy at 6.2% (rather than 6.5% previously).

The IMF estimate does not consider a US recession. That could hurt the world economy, and India cannot escape the impact. That would be known only by 2026. As a result, foreigners are parking money in Indian equities. That could be a function of caution and not valuation.

**Caution is universal**

The most significant indicator of why caution is universal can be seen in the price of gold. It has scaled a new high and continues to do so as central banks worldwide and individuals pile up the yellow metal. With share prices at a record high, there is a possibility of correction if the profits of businesses do not meet expectations. The recent data for quarterly results in India for the March 2025 quarter and the financial year 2024-25 shows no significant upside to the profit outlook for the year ahead.

The reading shows that the corporate balance sheets are stronger, with more cash and less debt on books. However, there is a reluctance to spend money or expand capacity. Many analysts expect companies to expand their businesses in the next financial year. The uncertainty of global tariff wars and conflict threats has dampened the sentiment. It is hard to decide on the deployment of investment in uncertain times.

You have a situation where stock market valuations are at a record high despite uncertainty ahead. Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway announced that as of the March 2025 quarter, it is holding over $300 bn in US treasury bonds. That is caution at the highest level. A company meant to deploy capital efficiently believes that government bonds are the safest place to park money.

You need to assess the risk associated with your money carefully. These are times when you can afford to err on caution. Staying out of volatile markets is a good idea if you are uncomfortable. There is a lot of knowledge around you that you can soak while you wait for your turn to find that market bottom.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

# Grant Thornton, BDO giving Big 4 a run for their money

**DIPAK MONDAL** @ New Delhi

LONG dominated by the Big 4s —EY, KPMG, Deloitte, and PwC— the Indian audit space is seeing a shift with firms like Grant Thornton (GT) and BDO rapidly expanding their market share in terms of the number of companies they audit. The shift has been triggered by the mandatory regulatory requirements to change auditors every five years.

According to the primeinfobase.com 2024-25 report, these firms are now key players in the "Big 6," collectively auditing 67% of Nifty-500 companies and 34% of all NSE-listed firms. Grant Thornton, which is placed 4th, saw a 12.5% increase in the number of companies it audits to 107 in 2024-25, up from

95 in the previous year. BDO, which is ranked 5th and is placed above PwC, recorded the highest growth rate among the Big 6, jumping 30% YoY to audit 78 companies (up from 60). By contrast, the Big 4's growth was more subdued. For instance, EY grew by 6% (166 to 176), while PwC grew by 7.8% (64 to 69). However, in terms of audit fee, the Big 4s -- EY, KPMG, Deloitte, and PwC – maintained their dominance by cornering 29% of the total audit fee of ₹1,903 crore in 2023-24. However, Grant Thornton recorded a 23% increase in audit fee to ₹69.63 crore in 2023-24, outpacing PwC's 13.6% growth. BDO also saw a sharp 38% increase in audit fee earnings to ₹30.06 crore, signalling its appeal to mid-market clients. The key driver for growth of audit firms beyond the Big 4 are mandatory audit rotation. The Companies Act, 2013 prescribes that an Individual auditor should not be appointed or re-appointed for more than one term of five consecutive years and an Audit Firm should not be appointed or re-appointed for more than two terms of five consecutive years in listed companies.

# Govt abruptly terminates IMF ED's services

**PTI** @ New Delhi

THE government has terminated services of K V Subramanian as the executive director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) six months ahead of his three-year tenure. The move comes days before the IMF executive board is to consider financial aid for debt-ridden Pakistan.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has terminated Subramanian's services effective April 30, 2025, sources said, adding the government would soon find his replacement to be nominated to the IMF board as ED. According to the sources, Subramanian is learnt to have raised questions about the IMF's datasets, which did not go down well in the corridors of the multilateral agency.

# Lower NPAs buoy Indian Overseas Bank net profit 30% to ₹1,051 crore

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** @ Mumbai

STATE-RUN lender Indian Overseas Bank has reported a 30% jump in net income at ₹1,051 crore in the March quarter, buoyed by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income. The earnings mark the highest ever quarterly profit for the Chennai-based lender.

Total income during the quarter increased to ₹9,215 crore from ₹9,106 crore a year ago, taking the annual income to ₹33,676 crore from ₹29,706 crore, the bank said in a statement on Friday, adding the net income for the full year jumped 25.6% to ₹3,335 crore as against ₹2,656 crore in the previous year. The key profitability metric net interest margin improved to 3.77% from 3.73% for domestic assets and the same

for global assets improved to 3.58% as against 3.53%.

On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non-performing assets moderated to 2.14% from 3.10% and net NPAs lso came down to 0.37% from 0.57%. As a result, provisions during the quarter more than halved to ₹200 crore from ₹409 crore.

The board approved capital raising of up to ₹5,000 crore via a mix of equity and bonds during FY26. Of this, the bank plans to mobilise up to ₹4,000 crore by way of follow-on public offer, rights issue, qualified institutional placement or any other mode or combination in one or more tranches during FY26. Cost to income ratio improved to 44.35 from 62.58.

Total business rose to ₹ 5,61,958 crore from ₹5,04,923 crore, registering growth of 11.30%. Of this, deposits increased to ₹ 3,11,938 crore compared to ₹2,85,905 crore, registering growth of 9.11% and advances increased 14.15% to ₹2,50,019 crore from ₹2,19,018 crore.

Of the total deposits, Casa deposits increased 8.49% to ₹1,36,161 crore and the Casa ratio stood at 43.65 and credit to deposit ratio stood at 80.15.

## *McLaughlin-Levrone sets world's fastest of year in 400m hurdles*

Two-time reigning Olympic champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won the 400-meter hurdles with the fastest time in the world this year at the Grand Slam Track series Miami meet on Saturday. The 25-year-old American won in 52.07 seconds with Jamaica's Andrenette Knight second in 54.08 in a wind of 1.3 m/sec.

# MATCHES THAT MATTER

With just a few weeks left for the ongoing Indian Premier League's league stage to come to a close, the business end of the tournament is round the corner. Here's a look at some proverbial four-pointers as well as some wider talking points between now and the end of the regular season...

### Mumbai vs Gujarat | May 6

Since the league went back to 10 teams in 2022, all teams who have got 16 points have at least advanced. By that logic, the winner of this match could rubber-stamp their place in the next phase of the tournament. Having won each of their last six games, Mumbai will fancy their chances of taking down the 2022 winners. Gujarat, who have quietly chugged along in their own style, could be their stiffest test yet.

### Lucknow vs Bengaluru | May 9

Both these sides will be gunning for two points but for two contrasting reasons. After their nerve-shredding win over Chennai on Saturday, RCB have almost a week break. They are probably already in the last four (16 has been enough all seasons) but 18 and they will have likely get two chances of getting to the final. For Lucknow, an up and down season needs that kick and these two points could give them that in the final weeks.

### Punjab vs Delhi | May 8

The early pace-setters, Delhi, have hit a bit of a roadblock in recent times. With Bengaluru on 16 and at least two off Mumbai or Gujarat in position A1 to advance, it almost feels like only one of these two teams can go through to the next phase. With three losses in their last four, Delhi know they have to reverse it against their neighbours. Punjab, whose hedonistic batting style has caught the imagination, know one more win could give them a big advantage.

### Why 14 points may not be enough?

In 2024, there was one runaway leader in Kolkata Knight Riders but the fight for fourth place went down to the wire as all of Chennai, Delhi and Lucknow became inconsistent. Bengaluru capitalised on that with a winning run for the ages as they squeaked through on 14. However, a similar winning run may not be as yielding this time. With two teams already past that point and a couple more teams likely to coast through, the likes of Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow, currently 5th, 6th and 7th, have next to no margin for error in the coming two weeks if they are to break the current top four hegemony.

| Team | M | W | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RCB | 11 | 8 | 16 | 0.48 |
| PBKS | 11 | 7 | 15 | 0.37 |
| MI | 11 | 7 | 14 | 1.27 |
| GT | 10 | 7 | 14 | 0.86 |
| DC | 10 | 6 | 12 | 0.36 |
| KKR | 11 | 5 | 11 | 0.25 |
| LSG | 11 | 5 | 10 | -0.46 |
| RR | 12 | 3 | 6 | -0.72 |
| SRH | 10 | 3 | 6 | -1.19 |
| CSK | 11 | 2 | 4 | -1.12 |

*Updated till PBKS vs LSG tie*

### Skewed competition

A factor that's contributed is the inconsistent nature of the teams at the bottom. Since the league went back to 10, the teams at the bottom (8th, 9th and 10th) have tended to win anywhere between four and five games. This year, it may not come to pass as the league's bottom sides have yet to win even two games in a row. Generally, IPL sides have been able to beat anybody on their day. This year, however, that maxim hasn't held up to scrutiny. Out of the seven wins they have managed put together, three have come when facing one of the other two.

# Team above all, Punjab's ethos

GOMESH S @ Chennai

WHEN the penultimate over of the Punjab Kings innings began at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala on Sunday, Prabhsimran Singh had entered the 90s, having taken apart every bowler of the Lucknow Super Giants unit.

Avesh Khan, Mayank Yadav, Digvijay Rathi, Prince Yadav... not a single bowler was spared from Singh's onslaught. In fact, it had been the case every time Singh had got going this season. The powerplay basher from the past has become a beast who sustains the momentum while making big scores.

Sunday was one such occasion, the second time in fact, where it seemed like Singh might have a chance to get to the three-figure mark. It is a milestone that has evaded many Indian batters who came close. The fact that there are five Indians who entered the 90s but did not get a hundred until Sunday is proof to it.

But this is not a team that plays for hundreds and milestones. Their captain Shreyas Iyer set that tone early in the season when he was happy to be at the non-striker's end while being on 97 through the final over. It proved invaluable as Shashank Singh helped PBKS post a big score and help them beat Gujarat Titans in what was a close game.

Singh followed the footsteps of the captain on Sunday. On the 46th ball he faced, he went after Rathi but failed to make contact with the ball. The next ball was another hard hit but ended up being a single. Singh was not looking to farm strike nor was he playing it safe. He knew the significance of the extra runs considering the rain threat and the position they were in the table. He went for a switch hit ff the fifth ball and ended up being caught in extra cover — 91 runs from 48 balls. In total, 437 runs in 11 innings at 170.03 strike rate. The only opener with a better SR in the top 15 run-getters is his opening partner Priyansh Arya. "Huge credit to Ricky (coach Ricky Ponting) sir, he gives us a lot of confidence and backs us," Singh said after the innings.

PBKS opener Prabhsimran Singh hit 91 off 48 balls on Sunday | PTI

For someone who has made a name for himself with cameos, Singh has shown why he can do more and how consistent he can be. PBKS will need more in every game going forward. **Brief scores:** PBKS 236/5 in 20 ovs (Prabhsimran Singh 91; Akash Maharaj Singh 2/30) **bt** LSG 199/7 in 20 ovs (Badoni 74; Arshdeep 3/16)

# Russell shines as KKR win to stay in hunt

ENS @ Kolkata

BEFORE the match against Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane had insisted that the team win its next four games and make it to the play-offs. He called it a 'simple equation.'

However, Sunday's one-run victory against Rajasthans was nothing but simple as the holders kept their play-off prospects alive.

Andre Russell, who had just turned 37, rolled back the years with a 25-ball 57. Despite the slow start, with just two runs off nine balls, he caught up in the end, going after Maheesh Theekshana. Russell blasted him for 28 runs, getting to his half-century in 22 deliveries.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Rinku Singh also made important contributions. Singh, who had come under the scanner for his form, made a blistering cameo with a six-ball 19. The middle-over phase for the hosts was yet another calamity but Rahane would be thankful that his middle-order turned up at the death. With the ball, Varun Chakravarthy ran through the Royals' batting order, castling Dhruv Jurel and Wanindu Hasaranga in the same over. It was yet another evening to forget for Vaibhav Suryavanshi. Meanwhile, Riyan Parag came up with a captain's knock, but it went in vain. Impact sub Shubham Dubey (25 off 14) did well to keep the tie alive until the final ball. However, he couldn't quite finish the task. **Brief scores:** KKR 206/4 in 20 ovs (Russell 57 n.o; Jofra Archer 1/30) **bt** RR 205/8 in 20 ovs (Parag 95; Chakravarthy 2/32).

EXPRESS READ

### Women's hockey team finish Oz tour with win

PERTH: The Indian women's hockey team saved the best for the last as they beat formidable Australia 1-0 in a thrilling match to notch their lone win and end the tour on a high here on Sunday. Striker Navneet Kaur scored the match-winner in the 21st minute at the Perth Hockey Stadium. India had lost 3-5 and 2-3 to Australia 'A' side before going down 0-2 and 2-3 to the Australia senior side on May 1 and May 3.

### Aditi's birdie blitz puts her in tied 20th spot

IVINS (US): India's Aditi Ashok landed seven birdies against one bogey in a round of 6-under 66 that carried her up to the tied 20th place in the Black Desert Championship here. With rounds of 69-71-66, she is 10-under and eight shots behind the leader, Haeran Ryu of Korea, who has shot 63-67-68 to be 18-under. Starting from the first, Aditi began with three pars and then birdied four times between the fourth and the ninth to turn in 4-under.

### KSSM meet: Army shooters steal show

BHOPAL: Army shooters took five of the top six positions as Kedarling Balakrishna Uchaganve struck gold, relegating teammate Ajay Kumar Ambawat to silver in the men's 10m air pistol event at 23rd Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial (KSSM) Shooting Championship here on Sunday. Navy's Ujjawal Malik won the bronze medal. Kedarling finished with a strong 10.6 (244.4) under pressure to take the win by 0.3.

### Formidables set for World Bridge C'ship

KOLKATA: Formidables will represent India at the Bridge World Championship in Denmark this August, after retaining their team title at the 8th All India Shree Cement Bridge Championship here. The champion team comprising Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy, and Sayantan Kushari outclassed Mavericks 159-97 in the final. All members of Formidables lived up to their top billing, earning a winner's prize of ₹1.2 lakh.

## *DELHI LOOK TO CAPITALISE ON HYDERABAD'S WOES*

From winning five in six games to just winning one in their last four, Delhi have lost momentum. They look to gain it back against Sunrisers Hyderabad. A look..

**Will Axar take part?**

Skipper Axar Patel suffered a bruise while fielding and despite that he came out to bat in the last game. If he is not fully fit, the left-arm spinner might struggle on the field. DC would be hoping that the all-rounder is available for selection and ready to roar.

**Shami hits rock bottom**

Mohammed Shami was subbed off without completing his quota of overs during Sunrisers's previous outing against Gujarat Titans. He has been getting the attention for all the wrong reasons, for conceding 75 runs in four overs. And soon his place in the team might be in jeopardy.

**Delhi's batting issues**

While going away from home may give them an extra push, their batting order have been exposed in recent games. Karun Nair and Impact sub Ashutosh Sharma have come under the scanner for their below-par knocks. They will need the top four to come good and set the platform.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad** vs **Delhi Capitals**, Hyderabad

**Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar**

# China maintain top status at BWF Sudirman Cup

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHINESE shuttlers have been the gold standard for ages now and they continue to maintain that status.

Be it Olympic Games or any other team events or individual events in the BWF circuit, Chinese shuttlers have perennially been deemed to be among contenders for the top prize. It has sort of become a norm.

Playing in familiar conditions at Xiamen (China), they enhanced their reputation by maintaining their numero uno status in the BWF Sudirman Cup, a prized team event that they won for a record 14th time on the day by beating South Korea 3-1 in the gold-medal match. Be it singles or doubles, they have been a force in every department. Lin Dan, Zhang Ning, Li Xuerui, Chen Long, Chen Yufei, the pair of Ge Fei and Gu Jun, doubles specialist Gao Ling... the talent they have produced over the years is endless. The fact that they boast multiple players, who are equally strong, in one department highlights the talent that they possess. The mixed doubles pairing of Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin is World No 1 the BWF world rankings while Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping occupy the No 2 spot. And if that was not enough they have one more pair at No 6. It's a similar story in the remaining departments. On Sunday, Feng and Huang dug deep to beat the in-form pair of Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung in three games (21-16, 17-21, 21-15). An Se-Young, who has been an unstoppable force in women's singles, then brought Korea on level terms. World No 1 Shi Yu Qi then helped China restore lead before the women's doubles pairing of Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning, also ranked World No 1, completed the task.

**SUDIRMAN CUP 2025 PODIUM**

**Gold:** China

**Siver:** Korea

**Bronze:** Indonesia, Japan

Members of team China rejoice after their win on Sunday | AFP

# Nilakshika, Harshika hand India 3-wicket defeat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE Chamari Athapaththu-led Sri Lanka beat India women by three wickets in the women's tri-series ODI played in Colombo on Sunday.

Coming into the game, both India and Sri Lanka had one win each. Put in to bat first, India made 275/9 thanks to lower-order contributions from Richa Ghosh (58), Jemimah Rodrigues (37) and Kashvee Gautam (11-ball 17). Sri Lanka chased down the target with the help of Harshitha Samarawickrama (53) and Nilakshika Silva (56).

India started off slow with Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana taking their time. Mandhana in particular could not put her foot on the accelerator as she was run out for 18 off 28 balls. Soon, Rawal fell and it was down to Harleen Deol and Harmanpreet Kaur. The duo added 42 runs together before Deol got out. Kaur, too, was conservative in her approach as she eventually fell for 30 runs from 45 balls. Once again, it was down to Rodrigues and Ghosh. They switched gears and accumulated 88 runs in 14 overs. However, once they fell the way, India had struggled to keep up the momentum post powerplay especially when both the openers are back in the pavillion. Sunday seemed to be one such occasion where they scored a below-par total which proved costly as Nilakshika smashed 56 runs from 33 balls. Even as the hosts lost half their side, Anushka Sanjeewani (23 n.o) and Sugandika Kumari (19 n.o) held firm to guide the team home.

Harmanpreet Kaur (L) and Jemimah Rodrigues in action | SLC

India scrapped their way to 275/9. For a team that has a significantly improved middle-order with Rodrigues leading

**Brief scores:** India 275/9 in 50 ovs (R Ghosh 58; C Athapaththu 3/43, S Kumari 3/44) **lost to** SL 278/7 in 49.1 ovs (H Samarawickrama 53, N Silva 56; S Rana 3/45).

# Sabalenka beats Gauff to clinch Madrid Open title

AGENCIES @ Madrid

World No 1 Aryna Sabalenka said her sensational form this year is "like a dream" after defeating Coco Gauff 6-3, 7-6 (3) on Saturday to win her third Madrid Open title.

Last year's runner-up cruised past the American, ranked fourth, in the first set before digging deep in the second to triumph in a tie-break, sealing victory as Gauff double faulted. Sabalenka recorded her tour-leading 31st victory this season on the Madrid clay, adding the WTA 1000 trophy to titles in Brisbane and Miami.

"(Getting to six finals) sounds crazy, to be honest... I work hard and I know that if I bring my game and if I fight for every point that I'm capable of that," Sabalenka told reporters.

"But to actually like do it for real, I was like, okay, this is cool. This is ... like a dream."

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

# *Mbappe's twin strikes maintains Real Madrid's Liga dream*

AGENCIES @ Madrid

KYLIAN Mbappe struck twice as Real Madrid held off Celta Vigo with a thrilling 3-2 win to stay within sight of La Liga leaders Barcelona.

After the Catalans scraped a comeback win at Valladolid on Saturday, Madrid survived a late Celta fightback to maintain the four-point gap ahead of next Sunday's Clasico.

Defending champions Madrid, second, took a three-goal lead but were left clinging on at the Santiago Bernabeu against a Celta side seventh and hoping to qualify for European football next season. Madrid's Champions League defence crumbled and Los Blancos were also beaten in the Copa del Rey final against Barcelona last week, but Los Blancos are still hopeful of overhauling Hansi Flick's side in La Liga.

"We had a very good first half (but)... we fell apart, these things can't happen, it's happened to us a lot," admitted Real Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde on the club's television channel. "We left a lot minutes for them to get comfortable and they are a great team and they put us in a tough spot."

Earlier on Saturday, Barcelona came from behind to beat already-relegated Real Valladolid 2-1 to extend their lead for a brief period. The Catalan giants heavily rotated with Tuesday's Champions League semifinal clash at Inter Milan their priority and fell behind to Ivan Sanchez's early deflected goal. However second half strikes by Raphinha and Fermin Lopez powered Barca.

**Intriguing race: Liga table (top five)**

| Teams | MP | W | L | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) Barcelona | 34 | 25 | 5 | 58 | 79 |
| 2) Real Madrid | 34 | 23 | 5 | 36 | 75 |
| 3) Atletico | 34 | 19 | 5 | 29 | 67 |
| 4) Athletic | 33 | 16 | 5 | 24 | 60 |
| 5) Villarreal | 34 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 58 |

*Updated till Real vs Celta Vigo match*

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe scores against Celta Vigo in La Liga on Sunday | AFP

### Liverpool, United lose

LONDON: Manchester United's winless run in the Premier League reached six games after a dismal 4-3 defeat at Brentford, while Alexander Isak's late penalty rescued top five chasers Newcastle in a 1-1 draw at Brighton on Sunday.

Ruben Amorim's side are languishing in 15th place following the latest setback in their wretched top-flight campaign. United are focussed on salvaging their forgettable season by winning the Europa League. Chelsea, meanwhile, beat newly-crowned champs Liverpool 3-1 at Stamford Bridge to boost their chances of securing CL football.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

| SET EXAM | KPSC KAS MAINS | MP VYAPAM |
|---|---|---|
| Date: May 5, 2025 | Date: May 5. 7 & 9, 2025 | Date: May 7, 2025 |



SMD INITIATIVE

**The Asia University Rankings**

**184th** in Asia

**8th** Best in India among gov't and private institutes

**2nd** Best in India for Sports Science

# A KIIT ABOVE THE REST

**A proving ground for dreams, a launchpad for leaders, and a community that never stops pushing the boundaries of what's possible**

KIIT embodies the spirit of India of the future — dynamic, inclusive, and impact-driven

## *In numbers we trust!*

KIIT offers over 200 academic programmes of varied kinds

**Number of students**
Over 40,000

**Number of faculty members**
More than 3,000

**The lure of the outdoors**

| | |
|---|---|
| 18 | Sports complexes |
| 05 | Indoor stadiums |
| 09 | Outdoor stadiums |
| 14 | Swimming pools |
| 01 | Olympic-size swimming pool |

*Number of placement offers in the last placement cycle: More than 5,585 offers; over 1,000 students bagged multiple job offers*

# Brick by brick, dream by dream

From a modest beginning to a global varsity, a look at KIIT's ascent through the eyes of founder Dr Achyuta Samanta

**FACE BEHIND IT ALL:** Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS

**Started in 1992, KIIT has come a long way. What would you say have been a few of its milestones?**
KIIT's transformation into a higher education institution in 1997 with the launch of the BTech programme marked a major milestone, shifting its focus from vocational training to higher and professional education. Another landmark was receiving Deemed to be University status from the Government of India in 2004.

Since 2005, KIIT has made major strides in sports and most recently, KIIT's consistent climb in national and global rankings stands as a testimony to its quality and vision.

**How would you describe the students of KIIT?**
KIIT students are well-rounded individuals who combine strong domain knowledge with curiosity and a readiness to learn. They are exposed to real-world challenges and global perspectives, and above all, they carry with them deep-rooted human values.

**When it comes to placements, what are the steps KIIT is taking for students' growth?**
KIIT has maintained an excellent placement record, thanks to its student-centric culture and innovative academic approach. Its dedicated Training & Placement Cell works year-round to prepare students with the skills needed for today's job market. It is imparting co-branded academic programs with industry leaders like KPIT, LTI Mindtree, and that further enhances students' placement opportunities.

**How is KIIT contributing to India's research capabilities?**
KIIT is a hub for cutting-edge research, backed by a world-class Central Research Facility and centres like KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), Centre of Innovation and Research in Artificial Intelligence (COIR-AI), and COIR-Quantum Technology.

**Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see KIIT playing towards the same?**
By 2050, India is poised to be the world's third-largest economy, driven by its demographic dividend and technological innovation. With a deep commitment to social reform, rural development, and cultural enrichment, KIIT is preparing the changemakers of tomorrow. Its model of excellence reflects the vision of India @ 2050 — a developed, equitable, and compassionate nation.

## What's fun on campus

**Best dish in the canteen:** Dosa at the KIMS canteen

**Most awesome informal tradition at KIIT:** Holi celebration, particularly at Gandhi Chowk

**Lingo typical to KIIT and the meaning of the lingo:** "KSAC after classes" – Common phrase for heading to the Student Activity Centre post-lectures to chill, participate in club activities, or hang out

**Best time to be on campus:** During KIITFEST, the whole campus is lit up and everybody is excited to attend various events, especially the star night

**Best spot to hang out for students on campus:** MBA Garden

**Most Instagram-worthy spot on campus:** Rose Garden, Campus 12

**Most competitive club or society:** KORUS – consists of various groups with incredibly talented individuals

## WHAT KIIT DOES FOR STUDENTS

- **UN Volunteers Partnership:** KIIT has collaborated with UN Volunteers, offering students opportunities to work on real-world projects with UN agencies.
- **India Trek Initiative:** Through KIIT and the KISS Foundation, this programme provides international students and scholars a 7 to 12-day immersive experience exploring India's cultural heritage and innovative educational models.
- **Global Faculty Programme (GFP):** KIIT invites world-renowned scholars and educators to engage in academic collaboration, enhancing students' exposure to global perspectives and cutting-edge research.
- **KIIT Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell):** With the motto "Imagine, Innovate, Implement," E-Cell empowers students with mentorship, networking, and resources to transform ideas.
- **KIIT Kareer School:** It handholds students by orienting and mapping them vis-a-vis their aspirations and potential.

From AI to climate change, quantum tech to entrepreneurship, here's a closer look at the centres driving discovery and change at KIIT

# Engines of innovation: A research powerhouse

**KIIT-TBI**

The KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), established in 2009, is a leading university-based startup incubator in India. Supported by the Department of Science & Technology's (DST) National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), KIIT-TBI fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by providing resources, mentorship, and infrastructure.

**Central Research Facility**

The Central Research Facility (CRF) at KIIT is a cornerstone of advanced research, spanning 1 lakh sqm. It offers an integrated facility for all students and researchers at KIIT-DU to carry out their research activities centrally under one umbrella.

power up

**COIR-AI**

The Centre of Innovation and Research in Artificial Intelligence (COIR-AI) at KIIT University is a premier hub for advanced AI research and innovation. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, including high-performance Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and cloud computing facilities, COIR-AI empowers researchers, faculty, and students to work on cutting-edge technologies in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science. Its multidisciplinary research spans areas like healthcare.

**NEW AGE:** Cutting-edge labs that help push boundaries

**COIR-QT**

KIIT University launched the Centre of Innovation and Research on Quantum Technology (COIR-QT) to lead advancements in quantum computing, communication, and cryptography.

**CWRCC**

The Centre for Water Research and Climate Change (CWRCC) addresses pressing challenges in water resource management and climate resilience. As an interdisciplinary hub, the centre integrates research, innovation, and education to develop sustainable solutions for water conservation, disaster mitigation, and climate adaptation.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Suman Saurav Mohanty**
AIR - 9 in UPSC Civil Services Examination 2016 | BTech (Mechanical), KIIT-DU (2008)

**Avishyant Panda**
AIR - 91 in UPSC Civil Services Examination 2016 | BTech (E&TC), KIIT-DU (2011)

**Haris Bin Zaman**
AIR - 646 in UPSC Civil Services Examination 2016 | BTech (E&TC), KIIT-DU (2012)

**Ayaskanta Mohanty**
Founder and Managing Director, Tatwa Technologies | MBA, KIIT-DU (1996)

**Nidhi Singh**
Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India | BBALLB (Honours), KIIT Law School, KIIT-DU (2012)

**Sauradip Moitra**
APAC Head, Technology Resilience, Data Protection and Automation Engineering, Northern Trust | MBA, KIIT-DU (2007)

**One campus, many activities:** KIIT has a strong track record in academic placement and extra curricular activities as well, as it provides a platform to host fests, tournaments and many more activities

## WHAT MAKES KIIT HOME

**Ananya Shivani Telu,** *Fourth year, BTech Computer Science*

My four years here have been an incredible journey filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences. The university's excellent infrastructure, including smart classrooms, well-equipped labs, and a vast library, creates a great environment for academic and personal growth. One of the best aspects of KIIT is the variety of opportunities it offers beyond the classroom. There are numerous technical and cultural societies that allow students to explore their interests and develop key life skills.

**Angelina,** *Fourth year, BTech Mechanical Engineering*

For me, KIIT is not just an institution — it's a family. It all begins with our visionary Founder, Dr Achyuta Samanta, and extends to every single member who makes up this vibrant ecosystem. From hands-on learning in well-equipped laboratories to a wide range of co-curricular activities — sports, cultural clubs, NCC, and more — there's always something to engage with. Also, our professors play a key role throughout our academic journey.

**Shubhraneel Singha,** *MBA*

From the first day, as a BTech student in Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, to securing an MBA placement with SBI Mutual Fund, my journey with KIIT has been nothing short of transformative. I graduated in 2020, having gained not only technical knowledge, but also life skills that shaped my early professional years at High Radius and Accenture. Beyond academics, KIIT gave me space to explore my creative passions. My love for anime and Japanese culture was encouraged, and I began learning the language — something I never expected from here. That's the beauty of KIIT: it nurtures every dimension of you, whether academic, professional, or personal.

**Jay Kumar Atal,** *Third year, BTech Electrical Engineering*

KIIT has truly transformed me, both academically and personally. I've had the opportunity to work on several exciting projects. One of my proudest achievements is applying for a patent on an 'Automatic Smart Hydroponic Plant Monitoring and Controlling System.' I'm also currently working on projects related to power systems and electric vehicle (EV) charging technologies — topics that are shaping the future of energy. All of this has been possible thanks to KIIT's excellent infrastructure, cutting-edge laboratories, and, most importantly, the guidance of our dedicated faculty. Their constant mentorship and availability throughout the day have been the backbone to my journey.

# Where campus comes alive: Celebrating big fests

**KIITFest**

KIITFest is the annual techno-cultural festival of KIIT University. Recognised as one of the largest festivals in eastern India, it spans three days and combines a dynamic mix of technical competitions, cultural performances, and entertainment, drawing thousands of students.

The event showcases the creativity, talent, and energy of the youth through a diverse range of activities, including hackathons, robotics challenges, dance and music performances, quizzes, and workshops, often judged or attended by prominent figures.

The most recent edition, KIITFest 8.0, themed "Echoes of the Youth", took place from February 14-16, 2025, featuring over 80 events.

**KIIT-MUN**

KIIT International Model United Nations (KIIT-MUN) is a flagship event organised by students of KIIT University. Launched in 2013, it has grown into one of Asia's largest and most prestigious Model United Nations simulations, attracting delegates from across India and abroad.

The event replicates the workings of the United Nations (UN), where participants role-play as diplomats representing various countries, debating global issues, drafting resolutions, and honing skills in diplomacy, critical thinking, and public speaking.

The 2024 edition of KIIT-MUN, held from October 25-27, welcomed over 1,200 delegates across 15 committees.

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MONDAY

**DAY'S DIARY**

## *Pandemic ends*

The World Health Organization, on this day, announced that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)

**THE DECLARATION**

The director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, made the decision following a recommendation by the organisation's COVID-19 emergency committee

**ORIGINS**

The worldwide transmission, since its first reported case in Wuhan, China in November 2019, caused a pandemic to be declared on March 11, 2020

World Health Organization

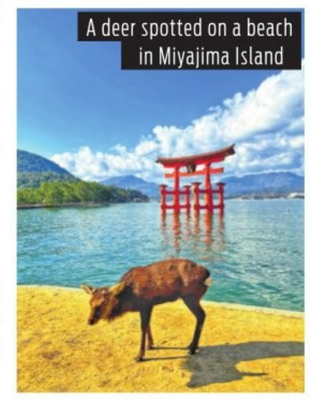
**IMPACT**

Around 777 million Covid cases and more than seven million deaths have been officially recorded by the World Health Organization

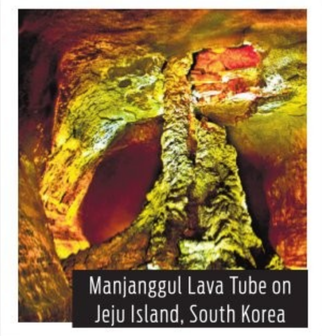
*Spice at A Price*

PG 3

Cable cars in Lantau Island, Hong Kong



A deer spotted on a beach in Miyajima Island



Manjanggul Lava Tube on Jeju Island, South Korea

# UP AND AWAY

Take a look at the most popular international travel destinations among Bengalureans this Summer

Travel influencers Shreya Choubey and Daksh Tripathi

Travel influencer Nicky Parmar on a boat ride in Vietnam

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

WITH summer vacations in full swing, Bengalureans are ready to pack up and travel. Among Indian travellers, Thailand and Bhutan remain ever-popular, Singapore and Hong Kong are the places to be for luxury splurging, and Japan and Korea are newer on the list. According to travel influencer Nicky Parmar, young people's love for unique but 'instagrammable' experiences is leading to seeking lesser-known destinations. "Instead of just touristy places, people are looking for experiences – local festivals, adventures – with longer stays," she says. Sharing her experience in Vietnam she adds, "Nihn Bihn [a river valley] is not visited by international tourists often. Similarly, Phong Nha National Park offers a stunning view of landscapes and caves. Also, Mui Ne, known for its dunes and sunrise is just amazing!"

### Trendy Travel
**- Japan and Korea**

Mahipal Singh, who runs Sonana Travel, has noticed increased interest in travelling to South Korea, partly due to interest in K-culture. "Because of the language barrier and difference in food, it's mainly Gen Z that's interested in going to Korea. They want to see something new," he says. K-drama fans may particularly be interested in Jeju Island, a popular filming spot featured in dramas like *Goblin* and *When Life Gives You Tangerines*; he adds, "On the mainland, Busan has beautiful beaches and is good for shopping. In Seoul, there's the iconic Gyeongbokgung Palace and Seoul Tower."

With Japan Airlines introducing a free domestic air travel scheme, visitors' interest in Japan has surged. Shreya Choubey, an influencer, who makes travel content with partner Daksh Tripathi shares an off-the-radar spot. "Miyajima Island near Hiroshima can be reached through cable car. The entire island is surrounded by the sea of Japan and is a secluded, non-commercial, and spiritual place. There are also deer roaming all over the island, around shrines" she notes.

### Evergreen Favourites
**- Thailand and Bhutan**

Bhutan and Thailand remain favoured due to their affordability and visa-free entry. Despite the recent earthquakes, Bengalureans are still interested in travelling to Thailand, notes, Preeti Nath, founder of Trip Naari. "There was initially a panic with Bangkok being affected but there are many tourist spots that are unaffected," she mentions, continuing, "You can explore hot springs in Phuket, Krabi, Ko Samui and also go island hopping." For those seeking untouched tranquillity, SD Nandakumar, president and country head of Holidays and Corporate Tours, SOTC Travel Limited, shares, "The pristine beaches of Koh Tao, Koh Lanta, Koh Yao Noi, and Khao Lak offer secluded serenity. Meanwhile, history enthusiasts can step back in time amidst the ancient ruins of Sukhothai or soak in the breathtaking vistas of Phetchabun."

Nath observes consistent interest in travelling to Bhutan too, saying, "Punakha is a popular place; it's the oldest capital in Bhutan and close to the Nepal border, while Paro Valley is known for the Tiger's Nest trek. There's also a beautiful, lesser-known place, Phuentsholing, a border town with a mix of Indian and bhutanese culture and several monasteries."

### Luxury Destinations
**- Hong Kong and Singapore**

While Disney Land, Hong Kong, remains the most popular draw, Singh suggests escaping to a nearby island. "Lantau Island has the picturesque Tian Tan Buddha monastery that you can visit with a cable car or with a 30-40 minute drive over a land bridge from mainland Hong Kong," he says.

Across the sea, in Singapore, while Marina Bay Sands and Sentosa Island are popular, Rajeev Kale, president and country head, Holidays, at Thomas Cook (India) Limited, notes, "Indians are exploring lesser-known gems like Kampong Gelam – the city's oldest urban quarters where trendy lifestyle and traditions come together. Singapore's Museum of Ice Cream is gaining traction among millennials and Gen Z. Culinary enthusiasts have been drawn to experiences like river cruise dining and private cable car sky dining."

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ANUBHAB ROY

Bollywood actor and producer Suniel Shetty, who was recently in town with his e-cricket team Pune Stallions, cannot contain his excitement about the e-sport format

# GAME ON

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Actor Suniel Shetty and Sachin Tendulkar's daughter Sara at the recently concluded second season of Global e-Cricket Premier League (GEPL)

WITH a career that has been active for over three decades, Suniel Shetty is known for his roles in blockbusters like the *Hera Pheri* series and has been a source of entertainment to audiences across generations, playing roles across the spectrum. Recently, perhaps unbeknownst to many, the actor-producer has donned a different cap as an entrepreneur; he has become the owner of Pune Stallions, a gaming team that participated in the recently-concluded second season of Global e-Cricket Premier League (GEPL), held at Koramangala Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

Shetty, whose team had been out of contention for some time, still attended the tense final between Mumbai Grizzlies and Chennai Falcons, with the latter going on to win. The Bollywood star, interestingly, is far from a nominal owner; before making his public appearance, he went backstage to observe the teams and their plans, along with Sara Tendulkar, who, as the owner of Mumbai Grizzlies, was also in attendance, accompanied by her mother, Anjali Tendulkar. Shetty, who was enthused by the rise of the sport, made no effort to conceal his zeal. "I think gaming has taken over the world. I went backstage to understand... it's incredible and very hard. From the corner of my eyes I saw Sara [Tendulkar] getting nervous and biting her nails," he quipped.

What perhaps gripped Shetty the most was that the players playing the game had their 'likenesses' copied to the video game, *Real Cricket 24*. This is pivotal because they are seeing themselves, playing on the screen, further dissolving the divide between 'real' and virtual cricket. "It's their voices and their own images. So when you play, you're the one who's being projected on screen. The world is seeing you. With a game like *EA Sports FC* [a football video game franchise] , you have the gamers playing with likenesses of real footballers. So for the kids, that talent is never showcased. This is the first time ever that I've seen that the kids, and who they are, are being showcased, and that's the beauty of this league," he said.

For Shetty, the father-in-law of KL Rahul, who has been playing pivotal knocks in the ongoing IPL, owning an e-cricket franchise does not seem as far-fetched. Moreover, as he reveals, his son Ahan Shetty is 'obsessed with e-sports', especifically football. "It is an alternative career. And you've seen that with IPL [youngsters being ushered into cricket careers]. This is exactly how I see it. Once you're into a sport, whether it's on the field or otherwise, once you're part of a team, you learn to lose together and win together; it shows a lot of character," he concluded.

---

ANUBHAB ROY

# Hoppy Hike

The recently-proposed hike on liquor and beer prices by the Karnataka government has left city-based establishment-owners and customers with furrowed brows

Beer fermentation tanks

A drink served at Long Boat Brewing Co

KARNATAKA'S alcohol market, for some time, has been a volatile entity (pun intended). For months, prices of various categories of liquor have been on the surge, tightening the pockets of sellers and consumers alike. With the newly-proposed hike – ₹10-15 per quarter for most liquor and 10 per cent across bottled beer – things could get worse in the coming weeks. Industry-insiders in the city cast their views on the potential hike, and what it could mean for their businesses.

This is, of course, not Karnataka's first brush with liquor hikes. Over the course of months now, except luxury-tier liquors, alcohol – especially bottled beer – has turned out to be a frequent hiker. Vinay BC, founder of Long Boat Brewing Co, heading a microbrewery that makes its own beer, has a different price-hike on beer to contend with. "We being a microbrewery, the rule for beers won't impact us, but the government recently hiked the overall excise duty for microbreweries from ₹35/litre to ₹60/litre, this did impact the sector in a significant way." Ajay Nagarajan, an industry veteran, spares no vehemence in his disdain for the decision. "Absolutely ridiculous. It's the second hike in four months," he says. Arun George, co-founder and director of Toit, echoes these sentiments ruefully. "This is the third hike in duties in a year; not justified at all. Beer is a low-alcohol beverage. There should instead be a push to lower duties on beer, but what's happening now does not bode well for business owners or our patrons," he comments.

But what is it about Karnataka particularly that invites such a flurry of liquor hikes? Vinay lists several probable causes. "Karnataka operates through a state-run wholesale model (MSIL - Mysore Sales International Limited), giving it a tight grip over pricing and distribution. This enables easier implementation of price revisions compared to states with less centralised control. With Bengaluru being a massive urban market, liquor consumption is high and price-insensitive, especially in mid to premium segments. The government knows it can safely hike prices without significantly reducing consumption among urban consumers." Vinay also refuses to see this hike outside the context of political motivation. "Liquor is seen as a 'soft target' for taxation – increasing prices garners minimal public backlash while funding populist schemes. It's politically easier than raising direct taxes or on essentials," he remarks. Nagarajan sees this move more as a snake that will eventually eat its own tail; he says, "With possibly the highest excise taxes on liquor and beer in the country, it is going to be detrimental. Consumption will decrease and eventually result in lower excise collections for the government, defeating the purpose of the hike."

The potential hike would have repercussions on customers, and would require re-strategising on the businesses' part to retain their consumer base. "We invite our regular customers for any new beer launches and trials, and call a selected few for our anniversary celebrations," Vinay says, who refuses to compromise on the quality of the products. As Nagarajan states, "Unfortunately, we have to offer deals and discounts, taking a loss on many occasions to keep our customers coming." George, although disappointed, hopes that the customer base is understanding at the face of this hiccup, stating, "All we can do is focus on maintaining our quality standards and hope customers will continue to see value in what we offer, despite these unfortunate price hikes."

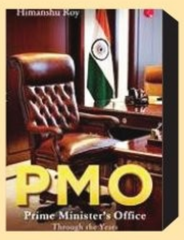
> *Liquor is seen as a 'soft target' for taxation – increasing prices garners minimal public backlash while funding populist schemes*
>
> - Vinay BC, founder of Long Boat Brewing Co

**CITY READ**

### Restaurant introduces pan-Asian five-course lunch experience

Foo, Brigade Road, is currently serving its signature best of Asia five-course set lunch experience from Monday to Friday at 12pm to take diners on a flavourful journey across the diverse cuisines of Asia. The five-course menu will feature a choice of salad, dim sum, sushi, a main course, and dessert. Highlights include Thai me up (v), nikkei prawn tempura uramaki, wasabi, truffle & edamame dumpling, Foo's yellow curry, and blue butter Japanese fried rice. Priced at ₹795 ++, the highlight of the restaurant includes two rotating menus switching every 15 days, promising an exceptional variety of dishes that showcase the best pan-Asian cuisine. For reservations, call 97420 44747.

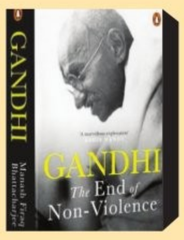
## BOOK NOOK




### PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years

**By Himanshu Roy**

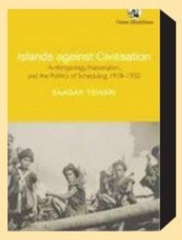
The book traces the evolution of the PMO since independence. Through meticulous research, it examines various facets of the PMO, including its operations, bureaucracy, and the expanding scope of its power.




### Gandhi: The End of Non-Violence

**By Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee**

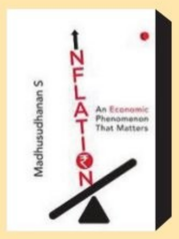
This book is not just a historical account – it is an unflinching meditation on the limits of moral resistance, the brutality of political ambition, and the terrifying costs of a divided nation.




### Islands Against Civilisation: Anthropology, Nationalism, and the Politics of Scheduling, 1918–1950

**by Saagar Tewari**

It gives a history of late-colonial discussions around the future of tribal communities in South Asia.




### Inflation: An Economic Phenomenon that Matters

**By Madhusudhanan S**

It aims to explain these impacts lucidly, along with a deep and insightful coverage of multiple theories, case studies and arguments.

**NIMBLE STEPS**

Models showcase a dance performance during the Unfold event curated by Prasad Bidapa, held at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru | **ALLEN EGENUSE J.**

## QUICKFIX

### AAM CHUTNEY

**INGREDIENTS**

- **Raw mango:** 1, small
- **Dry red chilli:** 4-5
- **Salt as per taste**
- **Coriander seeds:** 2 tsp
- **Ajwain:** 1-1.5 tsp

**METHOD**

- Heat oil in a kadhai. Add coriander seeds, ajwain, and dry red chillies and sauté.
- Add some coriander leaves and cook. Take it off the heat and let it cool down.
- In a mixer, add peeled and chopped mangoes, along with the sauteed ingredients.
- Grind and serve with dosas or parathas.

Contributed by **Nandini Devi,** Chennai

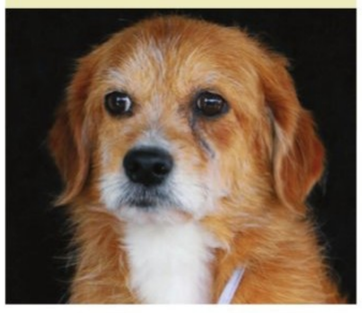
## ASK AN XPERT

**DR VIVEK ARORA**

*The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.*

**Is it proven that dogs don't cry? I'm sure ours does. When we returned from a holiday was one occasion, the other was when my husband raised a stick pretending to hit her when she was about to harm another dog.**

Dogs may not shed emotional tears the way humans do, but they feel emotions just as deeply. Their eyes can water due to things like irritation or stress, yet many pet parents notice those teary eyes during emotional moments. While science hasn't confirmed that dogs cry from feelings, their strong emotional sensitivity is undeniable. The times you mentioned – your trip and the raised stick – likely stirred fear or sadness in her. Those moments show just how deeply she's connected to your family and how much she feels and understands.



## FITBIT

### WINGED DRAGON ARMS STRETCHED CHEST FLOOR

This advanced practice embraces the dual qualities of expansion and grounding, fostering a profound connection between body, breath, and spirit. This pose can be included in yoga routines for teens/kids, working professionals, and sportspeople. It keeps the muscles healthy and mobile, alleviating stiffness and pain in the hips, legs, and pelvis. This challenging pose not only offers a significant external rotation of the hip but also provides comprehensive benefits for both hips and hamstrings.

**STEPS**

- Start in Adho Mukha Svanasana and your legs should be hip-width apart.
- Inhale, lift the right leg at the back. Exhale, bring the right knee forward towards the right wrist and foot towards the left wrist, extending the left leg behind in the Ardha Kapotasana Variation I pose.
- The right shin should be parallel to the mat.
- Stretch the left leg in line with the hip, with the toes pointing behind.
- Bring your awareness to the right hip crease, and avoid rolling onto the right hip's outer edge.
- Exhale. Lower your torso towards the floor.
- Rest your arms and palms on the floor, keeping them straight and shoulder aligned. Fingers must point in front, chin away from the chest, and eyes closed. Keep shoulders relaxed.
- Keep your core active and stay here for about six breaths or as per the body's capacity. Breathe soft and deep, feeling the stretch in the hips, groins, lower back, and hamstrings.
- Release the pose and return to Adho Mukha Svanasana.
- Stay here for a while, taking long deep breaths.
- Then, counter the stretch on to the left side.
- Release and come to Adho Mukha Svanasana.
- Finally, release and relax in Balasana.

**BENEFITS**

- Stretches and lengthens the muscles surrounding the hips, legs, neck, back, knees, ankle joint, and opens arms and shoulders.
- Engages the hip flexors, glutes, pelvic floor muscles, psoas muscles, lower back, quadriceps, and hamstrings.
- Gets rid of tiredness and tight hips.
- Improves flexibility of the hips and legs to enhance balance.
- Breathing becomes strong and steady.
- Body weight is evenly distributed on both sides of the pelvis.
- Helps students to get into other challenging, asymmetrical, hip opening poses.
- Releases the stress and tension when held for a long time.
- Calms the mind and nervous system.
- Massages the abdominal organs and digestive tract.
- Improves the blood and pranic flow to the spine and reproductive system.
- Stimulates the spleen and stomach, kidneys and bladder respectively.
- Activates the Root Chakra besides stimulating the Sacral and Solar Plexus Chakras.
- Releases strain on the lumbar spine.
- Great restorative practice for pregnant women to relieve the tiredness, tight hips and lower back.
- Seniors can practise with the help of a block, bolster, or folded blanket underneath the hip or head.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Students with hip or knee injuries or broken arm should avoid the pose.
- People with hip or knee pain, acute back pain, heart problems, hip tightness, BP, should practise the pose under the guidance of a yoga expert.
- Pregnant women in their second or third trimesters can follow with a chair.
- Seniors or students with knee or hip issues should take it slow.

**By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai**

**EXPRESS CONNECT**

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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@xpress_bengaluru

## WHATWHENWHYWHERE

### Tea and Taste

Indulge in Yum Cha, a limited-edition menu inspired by the timeless Cantonese tradition of tea and dim sum. Highlights include vegetable chive dumplings, chicken spring rolls, and more, complemented by unlimited pours of jasmine green tea and chamomile flowers.

**WHEN:** May 5 onwards, 4pm
**WHERE:** Yauatcha, Someshwarpura
**CALL:** 92222 22800

### Theatrical Tales

Attend live productions of TP Kailasam's play *Home Rule* and *Kannadakkobbane Kailasam* directed by Sridhar Yadravi, which will be staged by Antharanga, a creative theatre group. Priced at ₹150, the former is a humourous play while the latter deals with Kailasam's life and works. **WHEN:** May 7, 7.15pm onwards
**WHERE:** Wadia Hall, Basavanagudi
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

### Poetic Evenings

Spend an evening listening to verses written by featured poet **Alpa Arora**, who has been writing articles, poetry and short stories for the last 25 years. Priced at ₹300, the event offers the delight of poetry alongside a menu of sandwiches, pastas, and salads. **WHEN:** May 6, 7.30pm
**WHERE:** Urban Solace, Ulsoor **CALL:** 98450 13055

### Adventure Awaits

With high-octane adventure activities and adrenaline-pumping experiences, this event promises to be perfect for those who crave excitement. Choose from a range of activities from heart-pounding giant swings to relaxing kayaking, and team challenges.

**WHEN:** May 5, 10am
**WHERE:** Area 83, Bilwaradahalli
**DETAILS:** district.in

### Decoupage Day

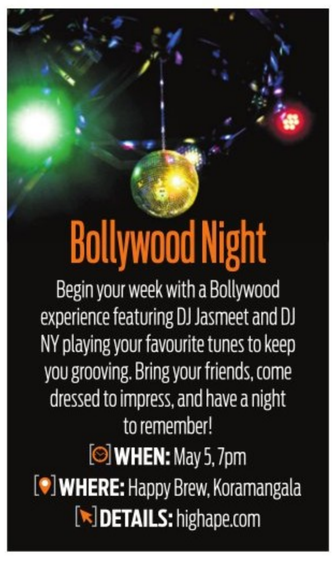
Attend this workshop to learn about decoupage art, including the techniques of preparing surfaces, applying decoupage papers without wrinkles, waterproofing methods, and more. Carry home your very own wooden wall-hanging decoupage piece that can also be a gift to a loved one. All materials will be provided.

**WHEN:** May 5, 5pm **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout **DETAILS:** allevents.in

### Summer Camp

Enroll for a camp where your little ones can explore a new part of the world through hands-on, playful experiences rooted in art, food, music, and storytelling. From ancient Greece to Bengal, Antarctica to Maharashtra, every week brings a new culture to life. Open for ages one to eight.

**WHEN:** May 5 onwards, 9am onwards
**WHERE:** Across Openhouse centres
**CALL:** 88611 15000



### Bollywood Night

Begin your week with a Bollywood experience featuring DJ Jasmeet and DJ NY playing your favourite tunes to keep you grooving. Bring your friends, come dressed to impress, and have a night to remember!

**WHEN:** May 5, 7pm
**WHERE:** Happy Brew, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** highape.com

## ARTCORNER

### TRANQUIL HUES

In his watercolour canvas, Kolkata-based artist Sayan Das reimagines the splendour of water and landscape

# SPICE AT A PRICE

## Testing Škoda Kodiaq's new variants on the vibrant streets of Mumbai

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THE Škoda Kodiaq has long been a beloved premium 4x4 SUV, known for its safety, comfort, and clever features. The latest generation from the Czech brand has now launched in India in two variants: Sportline and the top-end Selection L&K.

Škoda India recently hosted its national media drive through the vibrant streets of Mumbai. I pushed the Kodiaq through narrow alleys, over stunning bridges, and along the newly opened coastal roads, all the way into the wee hours.

The city, lit by countless bulbs and the energy of night-time revellers, provided the perfect backdrop for the lively, three-row SUV.

Of course, I picked the top-end Selection L&K variant. While the exterior design is understated, the LED headlamps connected by a horizontal light strip across the grille are striking at night. The connected tail lamps carry the same visual charm.

I took the Kodiaq to some of Mumbai's most iconic locations – Marine Drive, Gateway of India, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Worli Sea Face.

The Bandra-Worli Sea Link and the under-sea tunnel on the coastal road are engineering marvels, and with minimal traffic, I could hit triple-digit speeds at ease.

A nice night drive, indeed. Mumbai's lit-up skyline is always a spectacular sight. Kodiaq did enhance the trip.

### Exterior design

The new Kodiaq sports a refreshing design and premium styling. The L&K trim radiates elegance with 'Dark Chrome' accents, while the Sportline variant features bold 'Glossy Black' highlights.

The front grille integrates a horizontal light strip, enhancing road presence. A red strip connecting the tail lamps adds to the sense of width. The new Kodiaq is 59mm longer than the previous generation, measuring 4,758mm in length, 1,864mm in width, and 1,679mm in height, with a 2,791mm wheelbase. Fully loaded, it has a ground clearance of 155mm.

### Interior experience

The L&K variant features premium Cognac leather upholstery and a 32.77cm touchscreen infotainment system. Multi-function smart dials enable touch control over AC, seat ventilation, massage functions, audio settings, and drive modes. The gear selector is conveniently positioned behind the steering wheel. Luxurious front seats come with an advanced pneumatic massage function.

Additional features include a sliding panoramic sunroof, a powerful 725W Canton sound system with 13 speakers and a subwoofer, and rear window sunblinds. Two wireless charging pads and multiple USB-C ports are provided in the first two rows.

The third-row seats are best suited for children. Boot space stands at 281 litres with all seats up, 786 litres with the third row folded, and a massive 1,976 litres with both rear rows down.

### Engine & performance

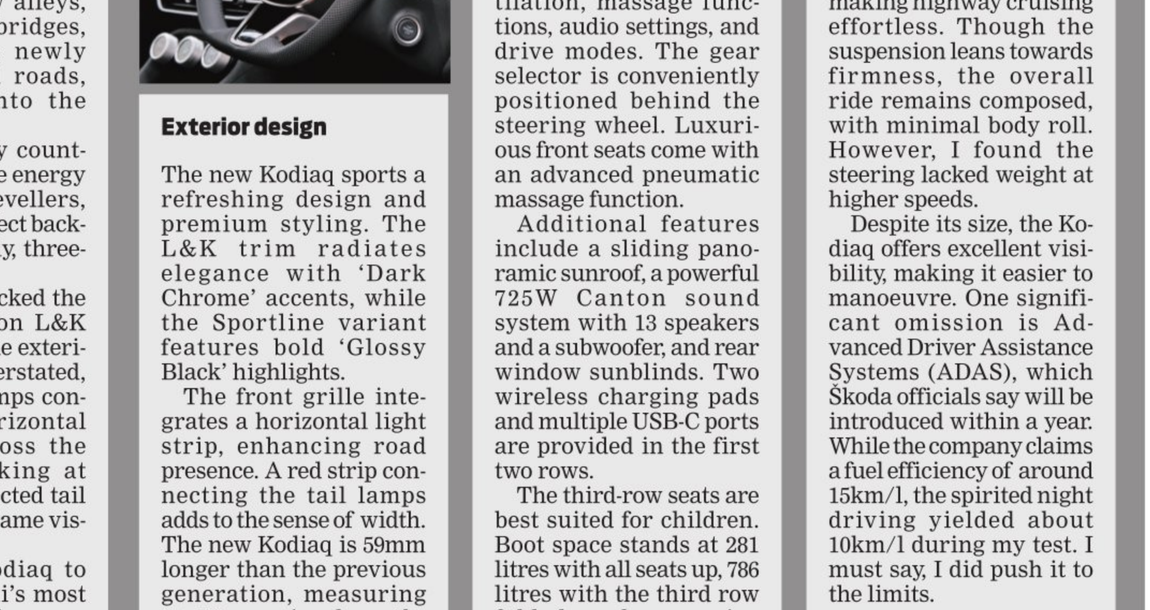
The Kodiaq 4x4 is powered by a 2.0-litre turbo petrol engine delivering 150 kW (201 hp) and 320 Nm of torque, paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch (DSG) automatic transmission.

The drive is smooth, gaining speed gradually, making highway cruising effortless. Though the suspension leans towards firmness, the overall ride remains composed, with minimal body roll. However, I found the steering lacked weight at higher speeds.

Despite its size, the Kodiaq offers excellent visibility, making it easier to manoeuvre. One significant omission is Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), which Škoda officials say will be introduced within a year. While the company claims a fuel efficiency of around 15km/l, the spirited night driving yielded about 10km/l during my test. I must say, I did push it to the limits.

**VERDICT**

Priced at ₹46.89 lakh for the Sportline and ₹48.69 lakh for the Selection L&K, the locally-assembled Kodiaq positions itself firmly in the luxury segment. However, with prices nearly matching the fully imported (CBU) Volkswagen Tiguan R-Line (₹49 lakh), the sales pitch may be challenging. Still, with a nearly complete feature set – barring ADAS – and a plush ride, the new Kodiaq makes a compelling case for anyone shopping in the ₹50 lakh SUV segment.



**XPRESS HIGHWAY**

FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

# A spiritual endeavour

This Bengaluru-based business couple recently spearheaded the installation of idols in a 19th century Colombo Buddhist complex that mysteriously had empty spaces with the names of Hindu gods

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

GANAGARAMAYA Temple, one of the oldest temples in Colombo which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited on trips to Sri Lanka, has all the features of a Buddhist Temple – a vihara, cetiya, the Bodhi tree, an assembly hall for monks and a relic chamber believed to contain Buddha's hair relics. But for years, there was a mysterious space left empty. "For unknown reasons, there were 10 small cubicles next to the main Buddha statue which had the names of Hindu gods and goddesses," says Jayachandra, a businessman who, alongside his wife Nalani Madhushani Wickramarathna, took it upon themselves to fill these spaces. "My wife happened to meet the revered Assaji Thero, the head monk of Gangaramaya temple during one of her visits. He casually asked if she could donate the statues of the gods and goddesses."

The 10 idols are of Shiva, Ganesha, Krishna, Vishnu, Muruga, Lakshmi, Saraswathy, Kali, and Sri Lankan deities – Pattini and Sumana Saman – all made of marble. After they were sculpted by craftsmen in Jaipur, Jayachandra consulted Radhakrishna Gollapinni Seshappa, a well-known priest from Bengaluru, to take charge of consecration. He led 10 priests through three days of ceremonies adhering to the shastras, which saw participation from locals across religions. "Though a majority of Sri Lankans are followers of Buddhism, there are Hindus from various parts of India who are Sri Lankan residents. In fact, some of the monks have a deep knowledge of Shiva and Kali and their spiritual significance. The decision to consecrate the Hindu Gods in the Buddhist temple, though unique, promotes inter-religious harmony and goodwill," says Seshappa.

Ganagaramaya Temple in Colombo

## NUGGETS

### New Japanese restaurant opens in Whitefield

BLR Restaurants Private Limited recently launched Hachi by Tenya in Whitefield, a 40-seater Japanese restaurant developed in with Japanese chefs and featuring techniques inspired by Tokyo-based restaurant chain Tenya, known for perfecting the Tempura. The layout of the restaurant is experiential, featuring a 12-seat chef's counter that wraps around the open kitchen, allowing guests to chat with the chefs, observe precise knife work, and witness tempura as it is flash-fried to golden perfection. The menu includes Japanese staples such as tempura, ramen bowls, sake, cocktails, and more. Guests can also expect small plates like agedashi tofu, chicken karaage, and dashimakitamago, served with artisanal precision.

### Luxury hotel launches summer cocktails

Shangri-La Bengaluru, Palace Road, has launched a range of summer cocktails which will be available until June 30 across its signature restaurants and bars. Japanese restaurant Yataii shows a collection of Japanese mixology with cocktails like Tokyo Green, Gin Sensei, Green Cosmo, and more. Indian restaurant Ssaffron, offers a bold twist on Indian flavours with Jaljeera Mojito, Tamarind Margarita, Spiced Piña Colada, and more. Italian restaurant Caprese gives you pre-dinner drinks the Italian way with Negroni, Garibaldi, Floral Serenade, Sgroppino, and The Camellia. Chinese restaurant Shang Palace introduces Elixirs of the East, a tribute to Asian ingredients and balance with cocktails like the White Dragon Cocktail and Green Tea Martini.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SINDHU NITHIN** W/o **Nithin P,** aged about 34 years, R/at No.3090 14th B Main, 8th C Cross, Near Thindi Mane, Attiguppe, Vijayanagar, Bangalore- 560040 have changed my name to **SINDHU K.NAIK** vide affidavit dated: 3/5/2025 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SUNITHA MURALIDHARA,** W/o S. Muralidhara, aged 46 years, R/at No. 12, Everjoy Residency, Flat No. 201, 2nd Floor, 5th Main Road, Vallabha nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560 061 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SUNITHA MURALIDHARA** and **SUNITHA .S** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth **I** shall be known and called as **SUNITHA MURALIDHARA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 03-05-2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA .N** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Mrs. Vanaja.M.K** W/o T.G. Manjunatha, aged about 49 Years. Residing at House No.94/1, Tavarekere Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Hereby declare that I wish to change my daughter's name from **"Amulya M"** to **"Amulya M Gowda"** in her all records, vide affidavit **Dt. 02.05.2025** sworn before **Ravikala S.N,** B.A..LL.B., Advocate & Notary, Tank Road, Magadi-562409.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I **KRISHNA KANT OJHA**, S/o Markandey Ojha, resident of Post Devkuli, Thana-Brahmapur, District-Buxar. Hereby declare that as per my Aadhar card my name is **KRISHNA KANT OJHA**. And in my son's **ABHINAV OJHA** birth certificate my full name is mentioned as **Krishna Kant Ojha** and his mother's name as **BINA OJHA** whereas in his mark sheet issued by C.B.S.E. Board, school my name has been as **SGT KK OJHA** and his mother's name as **MRS BINA OJHA**. The full name of **K K OJHA** is also **Krishna Kant Ojha.** Request the concerned authorities to do necessary changes vide affidavit dated 25.04.2025 sworn to before Office of Magistrate Dumraon.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, Aravindan A,** S/o. late. Anbumani P, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. 833/2, 3rd Cross, Coconut Garden, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560057, I declare that my grandfather name known as **Perumal** in all the records of my father late **Anbumani P,** but in my father death certificate erroneously entered **Periyaswamy** instead of **Perumal.** my grandfather name is changed to **Perumal,** vide affidavit dated 2/5/2025 sworn to before G.Dayananda Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, KHALEED PASHA, aged about 50 years, S/o Mohammed Fayaz Ali, resident at No.2128, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Kushal Nagar, K.G. Halli, Arabic College Post, Bangalore 560 045, have changed my name to **KHALID PASHA**
Vide Affidavit Dated: 08.04.2025 before advocate and notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, H S RAJA SHEKHAR residing at No. 856, 11th BLOCK 2nd STAGE PAPAREDDY PALYA WARD No.-73 KOTTIGEPALYA NAGARABHAVI BANGALORE NORTH 560072, have changed my name from **HOGAVANAGATTA SHIVAPPA RAJASHEKARAPPA** to **H S RAJA SHEKHAR** vide affidavit dated: 02/05/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Devaraja .E, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Manjeeta Kumari, W/o. Mr. Rajesh Kishore, aged about 36 years (D.O.B) 16.09.1988), R/at Sonestaa Meadows, I 171, Thubarahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560066. I have changed my name from **MANJEETA KUMARI** to **MANJEETA SINHA**. Vide affidavit dated 03.05.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary Indira S.S Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **HANUMANTHA B,** aged 19 years, S/o Balappa, residing at No.40, Gulbarga Colony, RBI Extension, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore-560011, have changed my name to **APPU B,** vide affidavit dated: 03.05.2025 before Notary **L.Gopalakrishna,** Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **VINUTHA PRINCE**, Aged about 30 years, W/o. Prince Tamilnathan, Residing at # 34, Amrith, 3rd D Main, Chikka Banaswadi New Extension, Bengaluru - 560 043, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VINUTHA PRAKASH** to **VINUTHA PRINCE** vide affidavit dated 03.05.2025 sworn to before M. Narendran, Advocate and Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, RAM NAYAK L** S/o Lakshmaiaya, Residing at No.428, 6th Main, 4th Cross, Yellamma Temple, Mottapanapalya, Bengaluru - 560038, have changed my name from **RAMACHANDRA L** to **RAM NAYAK L,** vide affidavit dated 16/4/2025 sworn to before D. Guna Shekar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, IRENE D ALMEIDA** W/O RAMU H S Alias JOSEPH D ALMEIDA, Residing at: No. 09-109, Roshni Cottage, Bunder Road, Kundapura, Gangolli Post, Udupi District, Karnataka - 576216. have changed my name from **IRENE D ALMEIDA,** Alias **IRENE DALMEIDA,** Alias **IRIN LOBO,** Alias **IRIN LOBO** to **IRIN LOBO** W/o **RAMU H S,** vide affidavit dated 3/5/2025 sworn to before M.Rajendra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, VIBHA SHEKAR residing at No. 856, 11th BLOCK 2nd STAGE PAPAREDDY PALYA WARD No.-73 KOTTIGEPALYA NAGARABHAVI BANGALORE NORTH 560072, have changed my name from **RAJASHEKARAPPA VIBHA** to **VIBHA SHEKAR** vide affidavit dated: 02/05/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Devaraja .E, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, SHIFAA BASARI, D/o. Mahaboob age about 19 years, Residing at No. 23, 11th Main 4th Cross Modi Road DJ Halli Bangalore 560045, have changed my name to SHIFA BASRI**
Vide Affidavit Dated: 03.05.2025 before advocate and notary **B.V. Nagabhushana,** Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **P. Venu Gopal,** Rank: LAM, Service No. 166997-R S/o Late K.A. Madhavan Nair, residing at Manjunatha Residency, #309,A Block, New Thippasandra P.O, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka, Pin 560075 have changed my wife name from **P. BINDU VENUGOPAL** to **BINDU VENUGOPAL** vide Affidavit dated: 02/05/2025 before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU,** Bangalore.

**NAME CONFIRMATION**
**I, PRATAP SINGH**, Aged 43 years, No. 4084658F Sep (GD) of 1014 DSC PI attached to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) P.B. No. 1785. Bangalore Complex, Bangalore - 560017.
I, hereby declare that the name and date of birth of my wife's has been recorded in my service document as PARMELA and date of birth is 10th May 1985 was wrongly mentioned. I hereby declare that as per Birth Certificate & Aadhar Card her name is **PRAMILA DEVI and date of birth is 10th April 1986**, vide affidavit dated 14th April 2025, Sworn to before Advocate & Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, PRIYA. M** D/O MANI. S (Aadhar No.5874-1748-0585) aged about 25 years. Residing at:No.55 GVT Archade, 3rd Cross, Aprameya Prasiddhi Layout, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560060. have changed my name from **PRIYA. M PRIYA. M** Alias **SHAN MUGAPRIYA. M** to **RAMIKA GOUDAR.,** vide affidavit dated 3/5/2025 sworn to before M.Rajendra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, ANIRUDH, resident of No.158/5, 9th Cross, 3rd Block, Thygarajanagar, Bengaluru-560 028, have changed my name to ANIRUDH SALGUNDI**
Vide Affidavit Dated: 03.05.2025 before advocate and notary L. Shankaranarayana, BA.,LL.B. Bengaluru City.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, SARITHA M P residing at No. 856, 11th BLOCK 2nd STAGE PAPAREDDY PALYA WARD No.-73 KOTTIGEPALYA NAGARABHAVI BANGALORE NORTH 560072, have changed my name from **RAJASHEKARAPPA SARITHA** to **SARITHA M P** vide affidavit dated: 02/05/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Devaraja .E, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, MOHAMMED YASAR BAIG, S/o. Samiulla Baig, Resident of No. 72, 35th 'B' Main Road, BTM Layout, 6th Stage, 1st Phase, Near Maruthi Dental College, Bannerghatta Road Post Office, Bengaluru -560076, Karnataka, have changed my name to MOHAMMED YASSER BAIG**
vide affidavit dated: 03.05.2025 before notary Smt. VATSALA, Bengaluru.

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# I don't just want to keep up, I want to set the pace: Sebastian David

*Pen Drive* starring Malashree, Tanisha Kuppanda, and Kishan Bilagali aims to be a gripping story packed with action, romance, and emotion

CE FEATURES

Sebastian David

VETERAN filmmaker Sebastian David, a State Award winner with over 30 years in the Kannada film industry and 16 films as producer and director is back — and this time, he's holding a Pen Drive. This isn't just a USB stick loaded with data, he says, and adds, "It's core is a suspense thriller designed to today's generation."

The teaser is out and viewers are intrigued by the high-stakes plot where a missing pen drive sets off a chain of revelations and dark secrets.

"It may be technical, it may be small — but in this story, the pen drive is no ordinary object. It's a disturbance. A spark. A turning point," says Sebastian David, speaking on the sidelines of the film's teaser release.

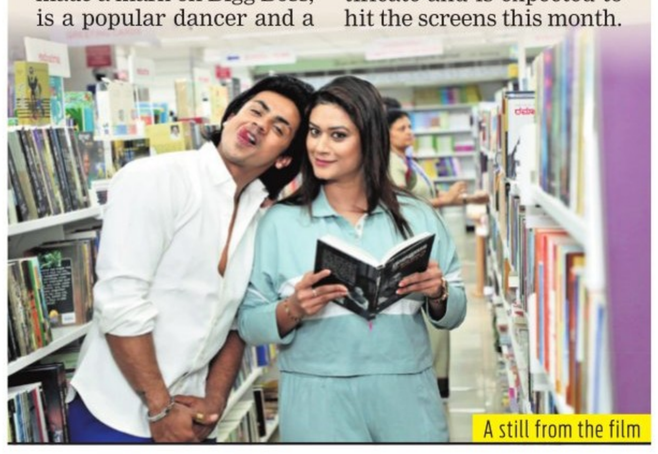
Produced by N Hanumantharaju and Lion S Venkatesh, and presented by RH Enterprises and Sree Thirumala Cine Entertainment, Pen Drive aims to blend technology, tension, and tantalising twists.

"Beyond suspense, the film also tells a gripping story packed with action, romance, and emotion," adds Sebastian, who goes on to introduce some of the key characters.

"Tanisha Kuppanda popular from Bigg Boss Kannada, plays a daring inspector — strong, stylish, and sharp. Kishan, who also made a mark on Bigg Boss, is a popular dancer and a TV actor. He takes on the role of an Artificial Intelligence expert. This marks his first big-screen appearance. And of course, the film has the dream queen, Malashree, as the SP — a role that brings gravitas to the film," he says.

The cast also includes Sanjana Naidu, Karisubbu, and several other supporting actors. The film's cinematography is by PVR Swamy, while music and lyrics are by Dr V Nagendra Prasad. Sebastian David also hints at a bold romantic thread in the film. "The romantic track between Tanisha and Kishan Bilagali will definitely push the envelope," he says.

As a filmmaker known for his passion and fearlessness, David is clear about his creative vision. "Yes, I'm experienced, and I've won awards. But I don't want to just keep up. I want to set the pace. This film mixes action, thrill, and a touch of chaos — because that's what sparks today's minds." Pen Drive, which was shot in a single schedule, has received a U/A certificate and is expected to hit the screens this month.


A still from the film

# 'MY CAREER HAS BEEN A MIRACLE, AND CREDIT GOES TO RAVICHANDRAN SIR'

..says Apurva, as she talks about her upcoming film, *Suthradaari*, working with rapper-turned-actor, Chandan Shetty, ahead of the film's release this week

A SHARADHAA

APURVA may not have come from a film background, but her journey into cinema, as she admits, has been nothing short of a miracle. She credits it all to Crazy Star Ravichandran, who introduced her to the silver screen in the film *Apoorva*. That one opportunity, she says, changed everything.

"I had no connections in the industry. Ravichandran sir picked me purely through auditions. For someone like me, that was nothing short of a miracle. Today, I'm being offered good roles across different genres, and people believe I can fit into a variety of characters. That's the biggest satisfaction — and all the credit first goes to Ravichandran Sir," says Apurva.

With four films waiting for release, Apurva has moved to her sixth project. After making a mark in the experimental film, Soori Loves Sandhya, she now plays the bubbly protagonist in *Suthradaari*, which is headlined by rapper-turned-actor Chandan Shetty. The film is set to release this week.

"Yes, I play the love interest, but my character is at the centre of the entire plot. That's what makes *Suthradaari* exciting for me," she explains. "And the fact that it's produced by Navarasan — someone who knows the value of promoting a film well — made it a smart choice too. It's not just about doing a film; it's about reaching the audience."

A still from the film

Talking about the experience of working with Chandan, Apurva says, "What surprised me was how quiet he was on set. You'd expect a singer and rapper to be loud, but he's always in his own musical world. Unless it's time to say a dialogue, he's either composing or thinking about music. I'm a quiet person too, so it was interesting. We only spoke when it came to shooting the film, and discussing the dialogues."

Apurva reveals that she was affectionately nicknamed "Senior" on set. "Since *Suthradaari* is Chandan's debut as a lead, the crew would call me 'Senior.' Both the producer and Chandan often complimented my performance, and I won't lie, it did put a smile on my face," she says. *Suthradaari* also features music by Chandan Shetty and cinematography by PKH Das.

Apurva

# 'Kapata Nataka Sutradhari will be India's first new-age political satire'

... says first-time director Dhiraj MV, who shot the film in a single schedule, in various historic locations including a 1,000-year-old temple

CE FEATURES

WHEN films are treading familiar ground, Kapata Nataka Sutradhari arrives as a bold and necessary disruption claims first-time director Dhiraj MV. Billed as India's first new-age political satire, this film blends rooted storytelling, biting wit, and a fresh ideological lens to expose the staged spectacle of modern politics.

Dhiraj, an IT-professional-turned-filmmaker, aims to take Indian cinema into unexplored territory. Having assisted veteran directors like Mata Guruprasad and Sunil Kumar Desai, and having honed his voice through short films and documentaries, Dhiraj now steps confidently into the limelight.

"Yes, we've had political satires in Indian cinema before but none that are rooted in new-age ideology—none that aim to decode political fabrication through the lens of contemporary philosophy, satire, and deep social awareness," says Dhiraj.

Saying that the term "new-age" isn't just about being modern or trendy, Dhiraj shares that it stems from a deeper philosophical movement born in the West during the 1970s—one that challenged systems, identity politics, and spiritual dogmas. In Kapata Nataka Sutradhari, Dhiraj hopes to draw on that ideological spirit to examine prejudices, social inequality, and manipulation, all through sharp, allegorical storytelling.

Shot over a single 55-day schedule without a break, the film traverses unique and historic landscapes—from ancient temples and forts to dense forests across North Karnataka. "We didn't want artificial sets," says Dhiraj. "We wanted our locations to speak—to echo the timelessness of the themes we're tackling."

The cast features over 100 theatre-trained actors, each chosen for their ability to breathe truth into layered, symbolic roles. "It's not just about what's being said—it's about what's being implied, what's being masked, what the audience is encouraged to question," Dhiraj explains. "This is a film that asks you not just to watch, but to rethink."

Produced under the banner of VSK Cinemas, the film brings together a talented crew: Abhiram Arjun as Business Head and lead actor, Veeresh NTA handling cinematography, Prasanna Kumar MS on music, Murali Shankar as co-director, Harish Rangarav as Creative Head, and Varun Gururaj as Production Head.

Dhiraj shares that Kapata Nataka Sutradhari aims to embrace the socio-political satire genre, digging into themes like power, oppression, and mass deception. He believes this marks the beginning of a new narrative language—one that uses laughter not to escape, but to enlighten.

"We are not telling a story just for entertainment. We're holding up a mirror. We want people to laugh, yes—but we want them to see what they've been blind to. This is new-age satire. It's political. It's personal. And it's long overdue," concludes Dhiraj.

With most of the production completed, the film is expected to hit theatres in June or July 2025.

Dhiraj MV

Team Kapata Nataka Sutradhari

# *Time Pass* promises a dark but funny reality check on the film industry

CE FEATURES

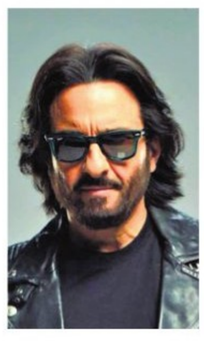
THE first look of Time Pass, an upcoming dark comedy by debut director K Chethan Jodidhar, is here. Billed as a sharp satire on the film industry itself, *Time Pass* is lead by a young team that hopes to challenge convention and bring unfiltered and passionate storytelling to the screen.

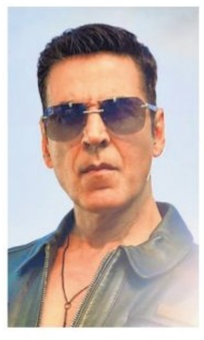
Another aspect of the film's unabashed nature is how Chethan has no film school background or assistant director experience. He admittedly learned the craft by obsessively watching films and studying YouTube tutorials. It is this raw curiosity that has transformed into a full-length feature, which is currently in post-production.

The story follows seven eccentric characters whose love for cinema spirals into chaos, blending absurdity with emotional truth. On the technical front, Rajeev Ganesan handles cinematography, Hari Param is the editor, and the music is by DK (DM Udhayakumar). The soundtrack features live-recorded music from musicians, who have also worked with the likes of Ilaiyaraaja and AR Rahman. Chethan and Vaishnavi Sathyanarayan have written the lyrics in the film.

Produced by Shree Chethana Services, Gundooru Shekhar, Kiran Kumar Shetty, and MH Krishnamurthy, the film cast includes Imran Pasha, Vaisiri K Gowda, Rathsharam, Om Sri, and Chethan.

# Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar to reunite for a film





CE FEATURES

ACTORS Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar will come together after 17 years for Priyadarshan's next, reportedly a Hindi-remake of Mohanlal's Malayalam-thriller *Oppam*.

Saif and Akshay earlier shared screen space for the 2008 action-comedy *Tashan*. Reports had earlier stated that Saif is teaming up with Priyadarshan for the film. In an earlier interview, Saif had confirmed that he is doing the film. "Yes, I am doing a film with Priyadarshan next. I play a visually impaired person," he had said.

Priyadarshan's *Oppam* explores the life of a retired judge, who faces difficulty in protecting his daughter from a convict he imprisoned. However, when he gets murdered, a man with visual impairment, who'd been loyal to the judge, steps in to defend his daughter. Saif was last seen in Netflix's *Jewel Thief-The Heist Begins*, alongside Jaideep Ahlawat and Kunal Kapoor. Akshay's *Kesari Chapter 2*, also featuring R Madhavan and Ananya Panday, is currently running in theatres.